Hafa Adai!

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22 DAYS BEFORE Christmas

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 240

www.saipantribune.com | THURSDAY DECEMBER 3, 2015 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

Talks seek to revive Japan tourism

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Faced with a steep drop in the number of Japanese tourists visiting the CNMI, government and tourism industry officials met yesterday with Delta Air Lines executives to talk about how to arrest that decline and eventually restart increasing Japanese tourism on the islands.

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres and officials of the Marianas Visitors Authority, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Japan Saipan Travel Association met with Delta Air Lines managing director of Japan and Micronesia Masaru Morimoto at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

The Japan tourism market

See TALKS on Page 4

WSR burglary 'mastermind' gets 3 years

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Defendant used 4 teens to burglarize several classrooms

A 34-year-old habitual offender who allegedly masterminded the burglary at the William S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa with the help of four teen accomplices was slapped Tuesday with a three-year prison term.

Ignacio Matagolai Leon Guerrero Jr. was sentenced to five years in prison, all suspended except for three years, with no possibility of parole.

Leon Guerrero's court-appointed counsel, Matthew Gregory, had argued that there

See WSR on Page 4

Airport back to normal operations

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

After four dark nights, the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport is back to normal operations after electricians suc-

» Partial taxiway lights still need fixing

ceeded in fixing the lights on the runway and part of the taxiway.

The lights passed the overnight testing done by lead elec-

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WINNING PHOTOS

The top winners of Best Sunshine International. Ltd.'s "weRcnmi" open photography contest pose with their winning photos during a gathering yesterday at Best Sunshine's conference room.

DAISY DEMAPAN

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A Philippine court convicts a U.S. Marine of killing a transgender Filipino last year.

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The Islamic State group is targeting gays with brutal public killings.

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LIFE & STYLE

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is a new dad, with plans to donate most of his wealth.

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Local

Soudelor photo contest winners share their inspirations

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

The top 3 Best Sunshine "weRcnmi" photography competition winners gathered yesterday at the company's Bank of Guam office and shared their inspiration for their winning photos.

Press secretary Ivan Blanco, who won first place with his piece called "Makeshift Playground," said the photo was inspired by a day he spent with his family at the beach.

The 10 consolation prize winners of the "weRcnmi" photography contest pose with their photos during a gathering yesterday at Best Sunshine's conference room.

DAISY DEMAPAN

"When Typhoon Soudelor hit, I didn't get to spend much time with my family so one day I brought them to the beach and my daughter sat underneath a [makeshift shade] and as I was watching her, I felt such a strong sense of sadness or longing that I decided to capture the moment," he said.

Second place winner Jack Stewart's piece, titled "Simba," depicts a young boy holding on to his mother while waiting in line for hot meals being served by the Kagman Community Church as part of typhoon relief efforts.

"I was watching this boy hold on to his mother the whole time and there was just such an amazing bond between them after such a disaster that I decided to capture the moment. He just gave you that look as if he was staring into your soul," he said.

Third placer Macy Manzanares' winning piece, titled "Healing Saipan," depicts her volunteer outreach efforts as a nurse visiting a patient in Tanapag.

"I wanted to show my daughters how Typhoon Soudelor affected our community. They didn't see the destruction because they stayed home but one day I brought [one of my daughters] with me and she took this photo after realizing how hard it was for some people," she said.

Tied for third place, Fredereic Guintu's photo depicts his son studying by candlelight stating, "…no typhoon or calamity can hinder his studies," expressing that no matter what is going on, education is important.

The 10 consolation prize winners were Kevin Ada, "Nana's Kitchen; Tony Peters, "Clearing"; Aysem Bray, "Helping Hands"; Nessea Cruz, "In The Dark"; Ponce Corotan, "Too Young to Bear the Brunt"; Josephine Togawa, "Calm In Chaos"; Geri Dela Cruz, "This Little Light of Mine"; Mary Ann Lagmay, "Hope"; Andrei Zerkov, "Hope"; and Selmalyn Taitano, "The Struggle Is Real."

According to contest coordinators, the competition drew over 200 entries.

Tao Xing, Best Sunshine International, Ltd. vice president for corporate services and communications, said he would like the event to become a perpetual contest as it really encapsulates the community in more ways than words can say.

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Demapan: CNMI is being lowballed with $23M offer

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The $23 million for live-fire ranges in the CNMI that was discussed in early negotiations between past administrations and the U.S. military is too low a figure compared to the reported $6 billion that Guam is getting in infrastructure projects for a planned military buildup in coming years, according to Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan).

These numbers were discussed during a Natural Resources Committee meeting Tuesday, where lawmakers mulled a Senate bill to prohibit the Department of Public Lands from leasing land for U.S. military purposes.

Demapan

The genesis of that bill comes out of protest of the U.S. military's proposed high-impact live fire ranges on Pagan and Tinian. S.B. 19-42 is authored by Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), former secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources discussed Tuesday whether the bill would foreclose the opportunity to negotiate with the military.

For one, if the CNMI received the nearly $6 billion or $7 billion the government of Guam has reportedly gotten for the military base in Guam, then that "would fix all our problems," said Rep. Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan).

Demapan agreed with the benefits but noted that the military in early negotiations did not propose an acceptable plan.

Demapan was press secretary of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and then-governor Benigno R. Fitial.

According to Demapan, the "highest" offer the CNMI government got from the U.S. military was $23 million.

Demapan said if the military had proposed a more formidable plan for Pagan it may have been accepted.

He noted that Guam would get billions "when the damage is going to be done here."

"Heaven's falling in Guam but not here," he added.

Torres: Debris cleanup contract out by Friday

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A delayed islandwide cleanup of Typhoon Soudelor debris is targeted to begin this weekend, after a contract for this work is signed off, according to acting governor Ralph DLG Torres yesterday.

Torres met with Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada yesterday afternoon.

Torres reiterated his commitment to continue wrapping up the cleanup efforts and working with the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts and private entities that are helping DPW do the cleanup.

» FEMA: Contract not our responsibility

On the issue of reported delays in the islandwide debris cleanup because of a reportedly stalled contract process, Torres said, "We are clearing that out now."

"I guess there was some issue as to who was responsible, whether it was the Federal Emergency Management Agency, [Emergency Operations Center] or DPW directly. So I believe they are going to air that concern today," he said.

Torres said they hope to have the contract signed by Friday.

"That's our goal. To start cleanup by Saturday," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Last week, *Saipan Tribune* reported on a discussion between House lawmakers, Ada, and Saipan Mayor David Apatang, where a contract for the cleanup was reportedly given the run-around by FEMA, effectively stalling the cleanup for months.

Ron Roth, FEMA's external affairs officer, however, said FEMA does not approve or deny applicant's debris removal contracts. He said this is the responsibility of the local government to determine if they wish to remove debris from public lands themselves or to contract that out to another source.

"That is a contractual agreement between the local government and the private contractor," Roth said in an email.

FEMA will reimburse eligible applicants 90 percent of the removal cost for all eligible debris as a result of Typhoon Soudelor, Roth added.

Based on historical data obtained from the Pacific region it has been determined that a reasonable rate for removing debris is $62.30 per cubic yard. This is the amount that FEMA is willing to reimburse local governments for debris removed from public lands, he said.

"FEMA has encouraged every applicant to start their cleanup process as soon as possible to promote safety, reduce any public health concerns, and restore the island back to normalcy," Roth said in his email.

FEMA continues to work with applicants to identify and quantify eligible debris for reimbursement. The final dollar amount that FEMA will reimburse for eligible debris cannot be known until the applicants have completed and documented their debris removal work.

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TALKS

From Page 1

has been in free fall, with the industry recording a staggering 72-percent drop in arrivals in the last 10 years.

According to HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh, their association's data also shows a similar decline.

"We see that our Japan market in its raw numbers—not compared to the actual overall numbers—is decreasing also," Cavanagh said.

Morimoto said their meeting was a chance to share with the government and the local tourism industry several ideas of what could be done to revive the Japanese market.

"We have a lot of ideas that we shared together. We talked about how to make the consumers' access around the island easier and convenient and we also talked about how we can expose the beauty of Saipan to consumers in Japan before they even come," Morimoto said.

Morimoto said they talked about bringing in more sellers from Japan to come to Saipan so that they can see the beauty of the islands for themselves and then sell the Commonwealth's travel product.

"I think Saipan, before maybe 10 years, 20 years ago, a lot of people came so word of mouth went very well. Now total tourism is declining. I think in the seller side, including ourselves, less people have seen and enjoy the market and the beach here," Morimoto said.

"What Saipan offers are the most beautiful beaches, white sand, and tropical weather all year-round. Those things have to be talked about by people who actually experienced it," he added.

This week, Morimoto is bringing in about 50 Delta sales people. Aside from working with the government, they will also do beautification projects such as tree planting and beach cleanup, as well as tour and enjoy the island.

Morimoto said he hopes to at least double the current number of Japanese tourists that are visiting the islands.

"Currently, the number of people that we have from Japan is something like one fourth of what we used to have 10 years ago so [our goal is to] at least double it back," Morimoto said.

Representatives of the CNMI government and the tourism industry met with Delta Air Lines Japan and Micronesia managing director Masaru Morimoto at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday to discuss ways to revive the Japan tourism market. FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Different approach

"I want to thank Morimoto-san and Delta for their continued support as the only carrier from Japan here that's scheduled for a direct flight from Japan here non-stop," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Toress said he met with Morimoto's ad hoc team and met with HANMI, JSTA, and MVA officials for a "very productive meeting." "We will be seeing some positive outcomes out of this meeting. We as a government will address certain concerns that they have and we are going to be revamping the way we are going to market the CNMI in Japan."

Torres added he would be working closely with Asian partners here.

"We would like to get a different approach, different views, different pictures" in the way the CNMI markets Saipan in Japan, he said. "We need to spend more resources and creative thinking in Japan to entice and increase our Japanese market."

Issues and improvements

According to MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, the government was able to commit to addressing some concerns raised by tourists' feedback such as the problem with stray dogs.

"We had much to discuss and we heard and understood some of their concerns regarding our travel product and some of those easily fixable stuff, the government did commit to address those," Tenorio said.

They also discussed giving more exposure opportunity to the CNMI.

"That means investing more resources in promoting the destination. That's something that we have to have discussion with the board," Tenorio said.

Cavanagh said Delta was able to give them some really detailed ideas on where they can start working on.

"We have beauty on our hands and it's just a matter of how we're going to make these changes in order to let the new generation in Japan know," Cavanagh said.

Some of the areas that they are looking at are coordination with large tour agents to bring in individual familiarization tours, improving shuttle buses, as well as giving away free and fresh photos of attractions in the CNMI.

"It's great to actually hear from them what we can do and what we can work on and it's a starting point. And having the government there trying to commit to possibly a partnership with Delta for our Japan ad-hoc promotion in the summer was fantastic," Cavanagh said.

With the hotels, Cavanagh said they talked more of cooperation.

"It was just the cooperation and we have been more than willing in the past and we are really willing now more than ever to try to save the Japan market and get it back to where it's at least a healthy diverse tourism market in the whole CNMI," she said.

Flights, ticket prices

Asked if Delta would be bringing back the flights to Saipan that they stopped, Morimoto said they want to.

"We want to. As an airline, we need to follow the demand. If the demand is coming back then we will bring the flight back," Morimoto said.

"That has to follow with the demand coming back," he added.

Delta said they have been offering lower prices than before.

"It's not going to be any lower but hopefully, the value of Saipan as a destination will go up so that the consumer can feel the value for the money," Morimoto said. ***(With additional reporting by Dennis B. Chan)***

WSR

From Page 1

was no evidence his client was the "instigator" or "ring leader" of an orchestrated crime wave, but Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio said the court cannot ignore the fact that Leon Guerrero was the only adult involved in this crime.

Instead of setting a positive example for misguided minors, Kim-Tenorio said Leon Guerrero instructed and watched them steal from WSR between Dec. 20 and 21, 2014.

"In doing so, defendant robbed students of valuable resources and a safe learning environment," Kim-Tenorio said.

The four teens stole computer equipment and hardware tools in order to trade them for crystal methamphetamine or "ice."

The judge said the presentence investigation report showed that Leon Guerrero has four prior felonies and has been in the criminal justice system since he was 21 years old.

While he has paid for these crimes, he shows little to no ability of rehabilitation, said Kim-Tenorio, made worse by his admission that he smokes "ice" whenever it is available to him, despite his responsibilities to two dependents.

The judge noted that the presentence investigation report prepared by the Office of Adult Probation reveals that Leon Guerrero grew up with a family involved with drug trafficking, did not benefit from a high school education, and lacked the means to provide for himself or his family.

"This suggests that defendant lacked supportive role models, proper structure, and an opportunity to rise above his circumstances," Kim-Tenorio said.

Despite Leon Guerrero's harrowing life surrounded by crime and drug abuse, the judge said, his family describes him as a "good father" and non-violent person.

Kim-Tenorio said the court recognizes Leon Guerrero's challenges but pleading guilty to a crime is not without consequence and he must be held accountable.

After completing the prison term, Leon Guerrero will be placed on supervised probation for five years, during which he is prohibited from possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverages or controlled substances.

The defendant was ordered to pay a $100 fine, plus court costs and probation fees. He was required to perform 200 hours of community service and pay restitution with his co-defendants to WSR in the amount of $1,800.68 before the expiration of his probation.

He is required to stay at least 100 yards away from WSR, and complete drug and alcohol counseling.

Leon Guerrero was ordered to report to the Department of Corrections by 5pm last Tuesday. *Saipan Tribune* learned that he did not show up, prompting police to seek a bench warrant for his arrest.

As of yesterday, Leon Guerrero was already at Corrections. It was not clear whether he reported late or if he was arrested.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Leon Guerrero with burglary, theft, and conspiracy to commit burglary and theft. He pleaded guilty to burglary in June. The remaining charges were dropped as part of the plea deal.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas recommended a three-year prison term.

"Based on defendant's criminal history, his chronic addiction to 'ice,' and his contribution to criminal activity and juvenile delinquency in the Commonwealth, a strong sentence is necessary in order for the defendant to realize the consequences of committing crimes," Barcinas said.

The prosecutor said the need to reflect the seriousness of the offense and promote respect for the law is also an aggravating factor.

"The crime of burglary has not only had a negative effect on the citizens of the Commonwealth, but also on the value of properties, the cost to replace resources for our classrooms, and the economy," she said.

In this case, Barcinas said Leon Guerrero used four teenagers to break into WSR to steal computer equipment and tools in order to barter them for "ice."

In exchange, Barcinas said, Leon Guerrero would make the teenagers smoke "ice" and allow them to "hang out" at his house, contributing to juvenile delinquency in the Commonwealth.

"It is hard to imagine [how] an adult with children of his own would poison our children, as young as 14, 16, and 19 years old, with such a drug," she said.

In this case, several classrooms, the library, and the maintenance room were broken into and several computer equipment and hardware tools were stolen, the total value being $8,877.40.

She said the classrooms were trashed and vandalized with graffiti.

"This shows a complete disregard for the laws of the Commonwealth, a disregard for the safety and prosperity of the community, and the livelihood of his family and the children of the Commonwealth," Barcinas added.

Last October, Leon Guerrero's co-defendant Vincent Gaza Sanchez, who is now 20, was slapped with a one-year prison term for his role in the WSR burglary and another burglary at the Office of the Public Defender in Susupe.

Saipan Tribune learned that the three other juveniles also pleaded guilty and were already sentenced.

In 2002, Leon Guerrero was convicted of robbery and sentenced to seven years in prison. While on parole, he violated his parole conditions when he committed the offenses of burglary and forgery in 2007. He was slapped with two years in prison.

Upon release from jail, Leon Guerrero was arrested again and eventually pleaded guilty to illegal possession of "ice" in 2010, according to court documents.

AIRPORT

From Page 1

trician Richard Cabrera and his team from Guam as well as the team from the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

"The lights were energized [Tuesday] night. They were left on for observation and overnight testing. The runway lights are fully lit, parallel taxiway from Charlie to Alpha 2/5 are fully lit," CPA executive director MaryAnn Lizama said.

However, the taxiway Bravo to Alpha 7 remains without lights.

"There's a current [Notice to Airmen] for this area and it will still remain," Lizama said.

Despite this, the airport is back to full flight operations starting 2pm yesterday.

According to Lizama, a "follow me ops" where an aircraft will follow their truck will be done in the area that has no lights. She said this is something that has been done before.

"A 'follow me ops' will commence during crosswinds, an operation that already exists," Lizama said. "Because it's not lit, they have to do a 'follow me ops.'"

Lizama said that teams are working on the problem area of the taxiway and will continue to work on isolated areas for further assessment and troubleshooting.

"Team Guam and Team CPA are working on the circuits for the Constant Current Regulator number 2 for taxiway Bravo to Alpha 7," Lizama said.

She said they are trying to get approval from Guam International Airport Authority for their electricians to remain on island for some more days.

"We're trying to keep Team Guam for additional days to further assess our areas, to hopefully try to repair, do what they need to do, just to be on the safe side," Lizama said.

Lizama thanked the airport operators and users for their patience in the last four days.

"I want to thank all of you for your patience. We've all been through hell and high water but we pull through together so thank you for your partnership," Lizama said.

Should DPL renew Kan Pacific's lease or open it up for bid?

By DAISY DEMAPAN and FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTERS

Saipan Tribune *went to the streets to hear directly from people their opinions on the lease of Kan Pacific for the Mariana Resort and Spa property. All opinions sought for this unofficial and unscientific survey were randomly generated over a period of one month. The Kan Pacific lease is due to expire in 2018. The Department of Public Lands, which has disposition of all public lands in the Commonwealth, has stated that it plans to put up all expiring public land leases for public bidding, instead of negotiating a renewal of the lease with the existing lessor.*

"DPL needs to leave Mariana Resort alone. They have been here for decades, invested millions, and have kept the Japanese tourist market alive. Plus they have the best spa in town! I would prefer to see big investors modernize and revitalize dilapidated parts of the island like that abandoned castle-like hotel down by the airport or the old La Fiesta Mall. Diversify the tourist market [and] promote healthy competition between investors. Consider long-term implications as opposed to short-term monetary gain. Leaders should pray and ask God for wisdom lest they press their luck and end up with a whammy!"

—Rosalyn Ajoste
Susupe, Saipan

"I think they should do something to continue their lease…Even though it's all the way up north, a lot of Japanese tourists and a lot of tourists still go there due to the fact that it is near a lot of tourist sites like Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff. I think they should renew the lease and have the opportunity to renew their lease."

-Jayrald Mercene
Susupe, Saipan

"Mariana Resort has been here for numerous amounts of years. One of the biggest factors that we have to look at is the jobs that would be lost. But personally I think they should have another chance because of the time it would take to rebuild another company."

—Ann Margaret Norcio
Oleai, Saipan

"I wholeheartedly support renewing the lease for Kan Pacific. How many Japanese companies do we have left [on] Saipan? What message are we sending to Japanese investors and Japanese tourists? We cannot say we want to increase Japanese investments and tourism while simultaneously failing to renew a Japanese company that has been on Saipan for decades, through good times and bad. Yes to the renewal, no to greed! Let's do the right thing here and rebuild some confidence for our Japanese partners. Nothing less will do."

—Rep. Edwin Propst
Dandan, Saipan

"My personal opinion on the topic is that I understand DPL's position to place the property up for bid. Both parties knew that they had agreed to certain terms for a specific amount of years. However, I think it's important that DPL consider the contributions Mariana Resort or any other hotel [with an upcoming expiring lease] has made over the years to the islands."

—May Ayuyu

"Absolutely, as long as it is adjusted to meet the current market value. It is important to maintain our integrity within the Japanese tourism industry."

—Don Farrell
Marpo Heights Tinian

"It should be up for bidding. The company that bids the highest—that will generate more funds for the CNMI and provide more jobs for people—should get the lease."

—Russell Saimon
Gualo Rai, Saipan

"I absolutely think that Kan Pacific should be given a chance to renew their lease. I think it is a dangerous precedent to set and is a threat to the greater business community. Kan Pacific employs many of Kagman High [School] alumni and supports our stakeholders in the north. Kan Pacific should be given preference as they have been a long-term investor in our islands and are committed to investing in our economic future and our local community's future."

—Leila Staffler
Kagman, Saipan

"They should give priority to the current lease or give the chance to the owner rather than give it away to somebody else. Mariana Resort has been here since before and helped Saipan stand up when the economy was down."

—Arnel Mitran
Hyatt Regency Saipan

"I support the lease extension of Mariana Resort. That resort has been there for years and has too much of a beautiful scenery to go to something else. So hopefully the business continues to be there for many more years to come."

—Thia Seman
Chalan Piao, Saipan

"The Constitution is very clear that DPL cannot extend. The only way out is to amend the Constitution. My opinion is I think it's terrible because it discourages investors but whoever wrote the Constitution did not look beyond….If DPL can [extend], I think they should. [Mariana Resort] has been here for quite a while…give them first priority."

—Agnes McPhetres
NMTI president

"It will be great if the Mariana Resort lease is extended… as a company, it's bad after their lease is finished. Hope [the] CNMI law changes…for businesses that help Saipan's economic growth."

—Yong Jun Jeon
Garapan, Saipan

"I do support the lease extension. Mariana Resort has been around for so long and has been successful in its business. It's one of the longest surviving resorts on Saipan and it works, so why not keep it going? I think they should just renew the lease altogether. It offers so much for our tourists with their fun activities they have to offer."

—Daniel Kaipat
Pagan

"I support the lease extension of Mariana Resort in Marpi. It has long been in business and everyone is familiar with the resort. It won't be the same if it's gone and it'll feel like a part of Saipan will be empty."

—Gerlyn Libunao
Kagman, Saipan

"We voted for our government officials to make these decisions for us, to represent us. Whether or not the lease gets extended there will always be those who will disagree with the decision. However, we are an island that prides itself with culture, respect, family, and tradition. Mariana Resort has been here long enough to be part of our family and community and it would be sad to give them up so easily because there may be a bigger offer."

—Maria Artero
Fina Sisu, Saipan

"Mariana Resort is one of the hotels on island that attracts tourists plus it is near our sightseeing destinations. Marpi is one of our beautiful villages so I think the extension of Mariana Resort is a must! Tourist attractions are an important thing on this island and extending their lease would help a lot too. They are responsible, a good business, and a long-time contributor."

—Nadia Moses
Kagman, Saipan

"I support the lease extension of Mariana Resort. Mariana Resort has been here for many years and they deserve to keep their lease extension. I hope to see Mariana Resort continue their business on Saipan for many more years."

—Anuhea Duenas
Fina Sisu, Saipan

TRIAL OF OGUMORO, MANGLONA TO COMMENCE ON MONDAY

Orders for BMV, Procurement to show cause dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has dismissed his order requiring the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles and CNMI Procurement and Supply to explain why they did not comply with a court order in connection with the corruption charges against former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro.

Wiseman said his review of the parties' submissions show that BMV should not be held in contempt for not complying with the order. With respect to Procurement and Supply, Wiseman dismissed his order to show cause, there being no objections to the issue at the hearing last Nov. 23.

In separate orders last Nov.19, Wiseman ordered BMV and Procurement and Supply to appear at the Nov. 23 hearing. The judge ordered the agencies to comply with Ogumoro's subpoenas for some documents on or before Nov. 18.

Ogumoro later told the court that the two agencies had yet to comply with his request for records.

At the Nov. 23 hearing, assistant attorney general Matthew C. Baisley appeared for the government and BMV. Assistant attorney general David Lochabay appeared as counsel for Procurement and Supply, while attorney Mark B. Hanson appeared for Ogumoro.

While Wiseman dismissed the order to show cause at the Nov. 23 hearing, BMV was directed to submit an affidavit whether it had the ability to comply with the court's order with respect to Ogumoro's subpoena.

The following day, BMV submitted a brief and attached a sworn affidavit from BMV director Juana Leon Guerrero, addressing the issue. Ogumoro objected to BMV's submission.

The jury trial of Ogumoro and co-defendant Herman Manglona will commence on Monday. The 57-year-old Ogumoro is charged with eight counts relating to theft by deception, misconduct in public office, conspiracy to commit theft by deception, removal of government property, and theft by unlawful taking.

Manglona is charged with conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking or disposition and receiving stolen property.

According to the allegations, Ogumoro brought a 1995 Toyota Tercel owned by DPS to a shop to be repaired using DPS funds totaling $2,500 and then sold the vehicle as "scrap" for only $50 to Manglona.

Ogumoro also allegedly instructed a DPS staff to bring a DPS desktop computer to a shop for repair. The computer was allegedly later used in the office at True North Bar & Grill, which is owned by Ogumoro.

NMC to host 'Cash for College' workshop on Tinian on Dec. 5

The Northern Marianas College and College Access Challenge Grant program will be hosting a free "Cash for College" workshop that will help students and their parents maximize scholarship opportunities that are available to students seeking to obtain a college education.

The free workshop will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015, at the NMC Tinian Campus. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am to 3pm.

Participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Tinian Municipal Scholarship, and the CNMI Scholarship.

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records and the Financial Aid Office will also be there to give information and assist with the NMC application process and answer questions about financial aid.

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), tax forms, and proof of CNMI residency for 2014 and 2015, including proof of continuing residency.

The free "Cash for College" workshop is made possible by the financial support of the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant program. This federal program aims to increase the number of students from underrepresented minority populations enrolled in college.

For more information, contact Maria Aguon at 433-0649 or email maria.aguon@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Learn how to turn your passion into profit

Your "passion" is that special talent, hobby, or interest that you wish you could spend all of your time doing. Everyone has a passion but few people get to do what they really love as a way of earning money. At the same time, world events and economic changes make it increasingly necessary to seek out additional streams of income to survive and prosper. Wouldn't it be ideal to combine your passion with the need for profit and make money doing something you love?

Well, you can! Technological advancements shaping our increasingly global community have changed the way people do business. Particularly through the Internet, it's more possible than ever to sell products and services and turn your passion into profit!

During this lively, interactive four-hour workshop, author and nomadpreneur Walt Goodridge will share how to turn your hobby/talent into a passion-centered business; launch your business on the Internet; generate income both on and off island; make money doing what you love; escape your 9-to-5 job and create true freedom; and help others do the same. There will be a special brainstorm session for viable business ideas for Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Pagan.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015, from 9am to 1pm, at the NMC Campus in As Terlaje, Bldg D, Room 1. Admission is $10 in advance, and $12 at the door. Seating is limited.

To prepay and read more, visit www.saipanliving.com/workshop, or using Paypal, "send" $10 to workshop@saipanliving.com. Students pay $5 in advance or at the door; bring ID. Email your questions to walt@saipanliving.com. ***(PR)***

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Following Information/Documents Required
Property Map/As Built Map/ Total Land Area
If available for existing building showing exact location & building details
Owner Title Information
Owner Asking Price

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-16-002

Typhoon Soudelor Disaster Recovery Project - CUC Central Warehouse Repairs

The Office of the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for repairs at CUC Central Warehouse in Lower Base, Saipan. As this project is time sensitive, contractors shall ensure that they have a good understanding of the project prior to making their bid proposal to avoid protracted contract discussion that will result in a successful expedited contract award to the selected Offeror.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays, **until December 15, 2015**. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division no later than 2:00 p.m. on December 15, 2015 in order to be considered.

A **mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** will be conducted at the Warehouse Building in Lower Base, Saipan on **December 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., ChST.** Immediately after the conference, Site Visits to Warehouse facility will be arranged. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC Central Warehouse Repairs, CUC-RFP-16-002" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 31, 2015 at 10:00 AM,** local time. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying

labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of proponents' preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proponents.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on **December 21, 2015,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, CUC P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 via email: manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Assistant, Procurement Division via email: marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective proposers who have registered for the solicitation with CUC procurement division.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Bid in the interest of the Corporation. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN RIEGEL
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Salvation Army serves over 600 during Thanksgiving

The Salvation Army's annual Thanksgiving lunch at their soup kitchen served double the amount of people than previous years, according to ministry leader Pastor Wayne Gillespie.

The Salvation Army also provided food deliveries to a number of families who were identified by the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts as severely affected by Typhoon Soudelor.

"[Up] to 250 meals were delivered to people affected by the typhoon and over 300 people ate at the soup kitchen," he said.

In the aftermath of Soudelor, the organization was able to serve over 36,000 meals in August alone.

Gillespie shared that there are still many things to be done and avenues for volunteering this year including the annual Red Kettle season that is taking place everyday except Sundays at select outlets. For anyone interested, the shifts are only two hours long and are a great way to spread holiday cheer, he said.

The annual toy drive is still ongoing with books, board games, toys, CDs, and basketballs being acceptable gifts, all of which will be donated to the children under the Division of Youth Services.

For more information on how you can volunteer, donate or to seek assistance, call 483-0885. ***(Daisy Demapan)***

Pohnpei voters urged to vote for governor and lt. governor

Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia is gearing up for its runoff election for the seats of governor and lieutenant governor, scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 8.

Marcello Peterson, acting governor and ex-Marine veteran of the first Gulf War, is being challenged for the gubernatorial seat by FSM Ambassador to China, Akilino Susaya. Both men hail from the same neighborhood in Kolonia and were educated by the Jesuits.

In the race for the lieutenant governor's seat, former Pohnpei State Legislative Speaker Nelson Pelep is running against a political newcomer and successful businessman, Reed Oliver.

The stakes are high as all the camps campaigned feverishly to win votes.

In the CNMI, all eligible Pohnpei voters are being asked to cast their ballots this coming Tuesday, Dec. 8, at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan, Saipan. Voting starts at 7am and will close at 7pm. ***(PR)***

Sex offender waives right to prelim hearing

Price Ekon Shoiter, a 68-year-old registered sex offender, waived his right Tuesday to have a preliminary hearing in connection with the charges that he sexually abused a 7-year-old girl in Dandan.

Shoiter, through counsel, informed Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho that he is waiving his right to a preliminary hearing. Camacho set the arraignment for Monday.

At a preliminary hearing, a judge determines if there is substantial evidence to charge a suspect.

Shoiter's case will go to Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Shoiter was arrested on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and offenses involving a minor victim.

According to police, an officer responded to a residence in Dandan last Nov. 15 after the Department of Public Safety received a call about a sexual abuse incident. Investigation allegedly showed that Shoiter touched a girl's privates as she was sleeping.

Shoiter was convicted in March 2004 for sexually abusing a minor. He served a prison term and registered as a convicted sex offender. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club
presents a musical production of
White Christmas
featuring the
Guam Territorial Band
Friday, December 4
Saturday, December 5
Saipan World Resort • Doors open at 6:30 pm
$25.00 Premium Seats • $10.00 Preferred Seats • $5.00 General Admission
For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com.
This production made possible by generous support from the CNMI Department of Community & Cultural Affairs, Hertz Rent-a-Car, Kanoa Resort, and Saipan World Resort.

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ASNMC invites the public to attend free Movie Night

The Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College is inviting Saipan residents to attend a Drive-In Movie Night on Friday, Dec. 4, 2015, at 6:30pm and 9pm at the NMC South Field (across the NMC Gymnasium).

The fun-filled event is free and open to the public. There will be space reserved for those who wish to bring their vehicles to the event, as well as seats reserved for those who choose not to. Space is limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Refreshments and snacks will also be sold by vendors at the event.

Please note that the film *Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials* is rated PG-13 and the *Hitman: Agent 47* is rated R, which means that minors under the age of 13 must be accompanied by parents or guardians.

For more information or inquiries, contact asnmc@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6790 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MAFEA anniversary bash today

The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects is inviting all Filipino engineers and architects on Saipan and in Guam to its 20th Foundation Anniversary (1995-2015) coinciding with Pre-Christmas Party celebration today, Dec. 3, 2015. Venue will be at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall from 6pm to 10pm. For more information call Ruel at 2858863, Lito at 9898905, or Jojo at 8880896. See you there. ***(Mafea)***

Family grief support meeting today

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting today, Dec. 3, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(TCF)***

Survivors and caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015, starting at 5:30pm at the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. For more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Free screening of Mormon Tabernacle Choir Christmas show

Celebrate Christmas with The Mormon Tabernacle Choir! Special guest stars will be singing sensation David Archuleta and star of stage and screen Michael York. Admission is free! The pre-recorded concert will be shown on Sunday, Dec. 6, at the Mormon Church in Chalan LauLau (beside DHL) starting at 6pm.

Upcoming shows are as follows:

- Dec. 13: "Home for the Holidays" with Alfie Boe and Tom Brokaw
- Dec. 20: "Keep Christmas with You" with the Muppets from *Sesame Street* and Santino Fontana from *Frozen*

Run time for each show is approximately 90 minutes. ***(PR)***

PH passports ready for claiming at TSL Plaza

Filipinos who had their passport applications processed almost three months ago can now claim their new passports. Those who wish to claim their passports may proceed to the Tan Holdings Legal Department office on the third floor of the TSL Plaza in Garapan. Passports can be claimed until Friday, from 9am to 5pm. For inquiries, contact Mel Santos at 233-2898.

DPS sets sobriety checkpoints this weekend

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoint on Dec. 5 and 6, 2015.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, the first setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan by Taro Sue Store, on the northbound lane, from 8pm to 9:15pm. The second setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, in front of Triple J Wholesale, on the northbound lane, from 10:30pm to 11:45pm.

On Sunday, Dec. 6, the first setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau, adjacent to the residence of the late Dr. Benusto Kaipat, on the southbound lane, from 6pm to 7:45pm. The second setup will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan, by Joeten Commercial Building, from 8pm to 9:15pm. ***(DPS)***

BECQ Brigade to tackle COP beach

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point Beach on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015, starting at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point Beach area/parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed. For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Dec. 3, from 2-11pm
- Dec. 4-5, from 2-9pm
- Dec. 6, from 2-10pm

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Dec. 2, from 7pm to 11pm.

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. ***(JRM)***

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
Naftan Bomb Storage and Naftan Ordnance Disposal Munitions Response Sites Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces its intent to initiate a remedial investigation and feasibility study of the Naftan Bomb Storage and Naftan Ordnance Disposal munitions response sites in December 2015 in accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS). You are invited to attend a public meeting to learn about the DERP-FUDS environmental restoration process and the remedial investigation and feasibility study tasks to be performed at the sites. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available during the meeting to answer your questions regarding elements of the remedial investigation and feasibility study.

Meeting Date: Thursday, December 10, 2015
Meeting Time: 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
Meeting Location: U.S. Army Reserve Center, Saipan

For more information regarding the planned remedial investigation and feasibility study, please contact Helene Takemoto, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District Project Manager at:

Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District
Programs and Project Management Division
Environmental Branch
Building 230
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E (Helene Takemoto)
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Telephone: 808.835.4088
Fax: 808.835.4129
E-Mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Announcement to all Registered Section 8 Landlords

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) would like to invite any interested registered Section 8 Landlords to NMHC's orientation for voucher recipients on December 4, 2015 between 3:30pm-4:00pm at the NMHC office conference room in Garapan. The landlords will be given the opportunity to market their registered units to the voucher recipients. You may contact Mr. David T. Chargualaf, PHD Manager, Ms. Nanette S. Palacios, Housing Specialist, or Ms. Sisi N. Alvarez, Housing Specialist at telephone numbers 234-6866/9447/7689 for more information.

Name: Aschumar Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong
P.O. Box 501310
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No: 670-285-3282

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	)	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0569
P.P.S.O. Minor Child	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By: Aschumar Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong Petitioner	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 1/21/2016 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 1st day of December, 2015.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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CNMI lawyers take part in mediation training seminar

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth lawyers who took part in a two-day certification course on how to become effective mediators on Nov. 20 and 21, 2015, have their picture taken with the course instructors—former Superior Court associate judge Timothy H. Bellas, retired Utah visiting judge Steven Hansen, and CNMI Bar Association member Joe Iacopino—as well as with NMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro and Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman.

In February 2015, the NMI Judiciary's Mandatory Rules of Alternative Dispute Resolution went into effect. The Rules require that all civil cases, except family law and small claims matters, go through a mediation process before regular litigation can commence. The rationale for these rules is to try to help litigants resolve their disputes outside of the courtroom, freeing up both the courts and the parties' limited resources.

NMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, the driving force behind the Rules of Mandatory Dispute Resolution, said: "Some cases filed with our court system do not need to go through the entire judicial process. Parties who rely on mediation early in a dispute often spend less time, money, and effort to resolve their problems, and, at the end, have greater satisfaction with the results. Equally important, mediation conforms more closely with the Chamorro and Refaluwasch norms and values of *'ina komprendi yan ina famaolek*."

Due to a shortage of certified mediators in the Commonwealth, however, the full implementation of the Rules was delayed. To address this, the CNMI Supreme Court and the CNMI Bar Association held a two-day mediator certification course on Nov. 20 and 21, 2015. The seminar was the first training held in the Northern Marianas to allow an attorney to meet the requirements specified by the Rules and become a CNMI-certified mediator. While the seminar was not limited to CNMI Bar Association members, the majority of the attendees were attorneys admitted to practice in the Commonwealth.

The course was organized by former Superior Court associate judge Timothy H. Bellas, retired Utah visiting judge Steven Hansen, and CNMI Bar Association member Joe Iacopino. The course was held at the Guma Hustisia. Castro and Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman also attended the seminar in an observational capacity.

The Friday portion of the course consisted entirely of instructional presentations, while the Saturday session allowed the participants to observe a complete mock mediation. The instruction and the mediation demonstrations were conducted by Hansen, Iacopino, and Bellas.

In explaining the importance of the course, Bellas explained that "mediation has become an alternative to litigation around the world. Since the Judiciary has recently adopted rules making it mandatory for most civil cases, this training seminar was essential to fully implementing a system that is intended to not only conserve judicial resources but allow persons to resolve their cases without the need for expensive litigation."

Hansen explained the importance of mediation by emphasizing that, "as a judge, mediation had a huge impact on my caseload, settling many cases that would have taken many days in trial." The NMI Courts believe that with mandatory mediation now a rule, and with a newly trained pool of mediators, the benefits experienced in the Utah courts will now be experienced by the Commonwealth's judges.

The course's other instructor and member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules Committee, Iacopino, stated: "Over the past 30 years I have conducted hundreds of mediations as a mediator, and I have participated in hundreds of other mediations as a litigant's counsel. As a result, I have become a firm believer in mediation as an effective and preferable alternative to the costs and hassles of litigation. It was an honor, a privilege, and a pleasure taking part in making mediation a more available alternative to litigation in the CNMI."

With the completion of the course, the CNMI will soon have a group of certified mediators, and the Rules of Mandatory Rules of Alternative Dispute Resolution will be able to go into effect. Regular civil cases will now be referred to mandatory mediation before litigation fully commences. This new practice will help more cases settle out-of-court, thereby freeing up limited resources and minimizing the animosity that litigation creates. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCMENT
Mariana Entertainment LLC

IMMEDIATE OPENING

GENERAL OFFICE CLERK
General office clerk needed. Light bookkeeping. Able to do general office work to assist manager and be familiar with QuickBooks. Responsible for daily, weekly and monthly sales reports. Report to accountant in preparation of various federal and government tax returns. Record daily account activities, maintain book of accounts.

QUALIFICATIONS
Must be proficient in MS word, excel, QuickBooks system software. Knowledge in general accounting. Can manage and monitor receivables and payables. Must have a minimum of 12 months of previous successful work-related experience in accounting. College graduate or equivalent preferred. Good Command of verbal and written English. Must have own transportation.

Interviewing Thursday December 3, 2015
1:00p.m to 4:00p.m
Marina Heights Business Plaza Suite 203
Please email your resume to
club88mholl@gmail.com or call 670-233-0888
Only Qualified U.S. applicant need apply.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCMENT
Mariana Entertainment LLC

For immediate hiring

FULL OR PART-TIME POSITION

SLOT ATTENDANT
- Will Train.
- Responsible to proactively seek interaction with slot customer for purpose of building positive business relationships.
- Trouble shoot and assist guest with their slot machines issues and perform minor gaming machine malfunctions
- Reporting any machine operational or technical issues to appropriate technical support personal.
- Ability to accurately explain various game combinations payouts and jackpots

QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Diploma or equivalent, with 12 months of previous successful work-related experience with Guest Services. Must be able to work various shifts, including evenings, weekends and holidays. Good command of verbal and written English, second language preferred; Chinese, Korean or Japanese.

SLOT CASHIER
- Will Train.
- Must provide friendly, efficient and courteous service to all customers. Process all slot cashier transaction on a shift basis actually and efficiently.
- Must be able to perform slot cashier operations, including and providing cashier services to players. Familiar with handling cash.
- Must perform various financial and accounting operations in support of Slot operations and financial reporting.

QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Diploma or equivalent, with good communication skills. Minimum of 1 year experience in handling money. Must be fluent in English, second language preferable. Must be able to work in various shifts including nights, weekends and holidays. Able to stand for long period of time. MUST BE ABLE TO SECURE A CNMI GAMING LICENSE.

Interviewing Thursday December 3, 2015 1:00p.m to 4:00p.m
Marina Heights Business Plaza Suite 203
Please email your resume to club88mholl@gmail.com or call 670-233-0888
Only Qualified U.S. applicant need apply.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 240

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mexican migration pattern reverses

This may have Donald Trump pulling his hair. Not only are Mexicans no longer coming to the United States in large numbers, legally or illegally; more actually are going south than coming here. That's the news from the Pew Research Center of migration patterns since the Great Recession hit.

The center's "analysis of newly available government data from both countries" also found "the overall flow of Mexican immigrants between the two countries is at its smallest since the 1990s, mostly due to a drop in the number of Mexican immigrants coming to the U.S." It estimated about 870,000 Mexicans came here from 2009-14, while 1 million Mexicans and U.S.-born children of Mexicans went in the other direction.

The main reason was that the "slow recovery of the U.S. economy after the Great Recession may have made the U.S. less attractive to potential Mexican migrants and may have pushed out some Mexican immigrants as the U.S. job market deteriorated."

We would add that Mexico's economy also has been improving the past 20 years, since free-market reforms were implemented after the devastating 1994 peso devaluation, which sent millions of Mexicans fleeing their disastrous economy. The reforms especially were strong under Presidents Vicente Fox (2000-06) and Felipe Calderon (2006-12) of the National Action Party, which had displaced the sclerotic, long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.

Current President Enrique Pena Nieto is part of the PRI, but has continued the market reforms. Under him, the country also is moving toward drug decriminalization, which could reduce violence by the drug cartels. Many Mexicans have fled their homeland to relative safety in the United States. Unfortunately, Mexico's government maintains strict gun control, not realizing that arming the innocent citizenry sharply drops gun crime.

By contrast, the United States, excepting some tax cuts under President George W. Bush, since 2001 has increased regulations and taxes, producing the sluggish growth of post-recession years.

Pew also found that "stricter enforcement of U.S. immigration laws, particularly at the U.S.-Mexico border, may have contributed to the reduction of Mexican immigrants coming to the U.S. in recent years."

The basic conclusion of the study is that prosperous countries have fewer problems. Strange as it may seem, Mexico itself now is an example for Americans of how tax cuts and deregulation bring more freedom and prosperity.

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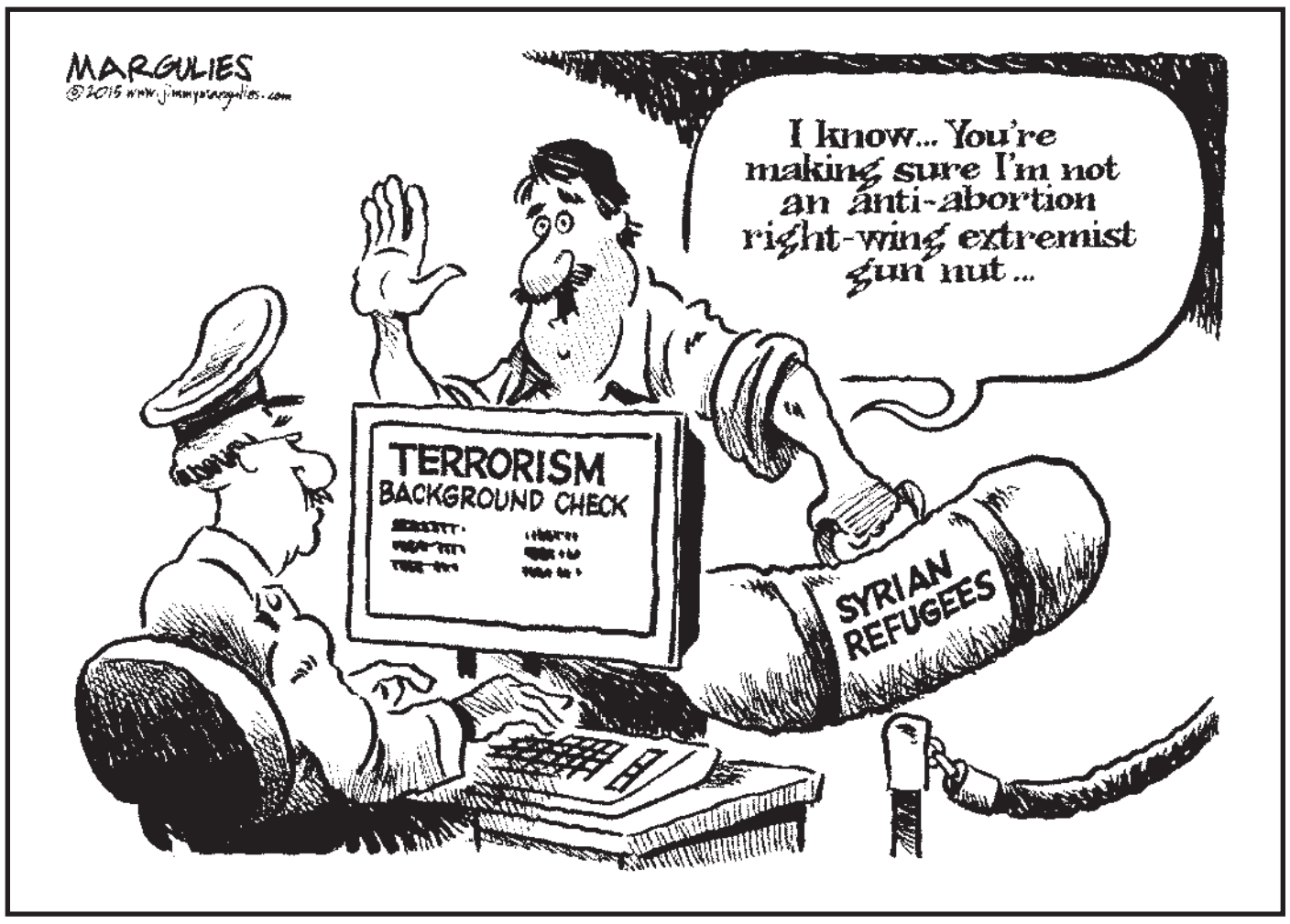


After Paris, we must keep unreasonable fears in check

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

There was good news last week, but you might not have noticed it, since it was the kind of news that doesn't normally get headlines: In a world transfixed by terrorism, life is getting back to normal.

On Thanksgiving Day in New York, an estimated 3 million people were brave enough to stand in a crowd to watch an annual parade of giant balloon characters.

Across the country, millions flooded into shopping malls for the annual ritual of Black Friday shopping, and hundreds of thousands more turned out for college football games.

Even in Paris, where Islamic radicals killed 130 people Nov. 13, and in Brussels, which had been on high alert, the streets, shops and restaurants were slowly filling up again.

The fear of terrorism isn't gone, far from it. But since 2001, we've learned to live with that fear and to refuse to allow it to disrupt our lives. That's a good thing.

The spike in fear is easy to measure. A CBS poll last week found that 69 percent of Americans think a terrorist attack is likely in the United States over the next few months, up from 44 percent in April.

Over time, that number is likely to recede if similar attacks don't occur soon, according to John Mueller of Ohio State University, who has studied public responses to terrorism. That's what happened after earlier attacks such as the 2013 bombing at the Boston Marathon and the 2005 bombings on the London Underground.

But the fear never quite goes away, Mueller adds. Ever since Al Qaeda's attacks Sept. 11, 2001, he told me, "We've internalized a long-term level of fear. Before the rise of (Islamic State), I expected a gradual erosion, but it didn't happen."

Much of that fear is exaggerated, Mueller argues. Even counting the nearly 3,000 deaths from 9/11, your chances of being killed by terrorists in the United States over the last 20 years has been very, very small. You're more likely to be killed by lightning, or by falling off a ladder, or by drowning in a bathtub. It was far more dangerous to drive on Thanksgiving weekend than to spend the day among those crowds in New York City.

And, while I'm dragging statistics into the picture, here's another one: In the 14 years since 9/11, most terrorism inside the United States has been caused by non-Muslim radicals (mainly white supremacists). A recent New America Foundation study offers these numbers: Non-Muslim extremists have killed 48 people in the U.S., compared with 26 killed by self-described jihadists.

Why, then, do we find the terrorism of Al Qaeda and Islamic State so uniquely terrifying? Mostly because of what Harvard's David Ropeik calls our "emotional risk perception."

"Never mind that the numerical odds are low," Ropeik wrote last week. "We all worry that it could happen to us." That's especially true when terrorists attack random targets in a Western city, he noted. Attacks in other parts of the world—Nigeria, Lebanon or Pakistan, for example—don't get nearly the same reaction.

None of this makes our fear of terrorism irrational. "Fear is a really good thing for survival," Mueller notes. "Fear is why we're still here as a species."

The problem, instead, lies in how we respond to fear, and whether we can keep our reactions from turning unreasonable.

After 9/11, amid predictions that waves of new Al Qaeda attacks were inevitable, the federal government poured billions of dollars into homeland security. Much of that money, inevitably, was spent on programs that weren't cost-effective, as Mueller shows in a new book, "Chasing Ghosts: The Policing of Terrorism." (Example: The federal air marshals program costs about $1.1 billion a year, but more air marshals have been arrested than suspected terrorists.)

In the same terrified epoch, Congress authorized a vast expansion of the government's power to surveil U.S. citizens and eavesdrop on their communications. A decade later, most members of Congress concluded that those measures had gone too far.

Now, after the Paris attacks, we're wrestling with a new version of the overreaction challenge. Some politicians—mostly, but not solely, Republicans—have called for a ban on accepting Syrian refugees, a halt on all immigration from Syria and Iraq, a special "registry" for Muslims entering the country, or heightened surveillance of mosques.

It's not clear how effective any of those ideas would be at stopping would-be terrorists from entering the United States. But all those measures would reward Islamic State by bolstering its sales pitch to young recruits that Western countries are unremittingly hostile to Muslims.

In the words of David Rothkopf, editor of Foreign Policy, in an essay last week: "It does the work of the terrorists for the terrorists."

That's why I was so encouraged by all the otherwise unremarkable signs of normal life this weekend—the cafe-goers in Brussels and Paris, the parade-watchers in New York, even the bargain-hunters at suburban shopping malls.

"Meme pas peur," the posters on the streets of Paris say—"No fear." That's a tall order. But even if we can't banish fear entirely, we can still refuse to let it change our way of life—and demand that our politicians to do the same.

Futtunan Famaguon-ta

Gi finu` i kuentos makat para un` tuñgu` asuntu ni ti un` tuñgu ya siempre un` matompu` gi hemhom na fina` katsada. I para un` ketuñgu` i asuntu presisu na un` aksepta sensian hinimidde.

Pot ihemplo: Ti bai` chansa umatrebi-yu` na hu tuñgu` kuentas ni mafanana`an calculus sa` tihu chule` ennau na asuntu gi eskuela. Unu hu tuñgu`, tihu tuñgu`. Pues ti bai` lapbla sekoshu piot kontra i manma-estudia pot calculus.

I puntu, debi man-sabiun I Deni` uma-atmite na kara` i kahan iya Marianas. I para umaditene i asuntu gi dineskuten otru asuntu ti satbasion. Eskusu! Si dakon siña esta dos biahe ha liliku`e` i tanu` antes de u gotde si magahet listun sapatosña. Dispues, i minagahet tat presisu na un` bira hau tatte para un` fandage mas.

Gi hilu` pumalolo`pu` hit na tiempun eskases mas siempre u didog pinadesen i tautau gi sigiente dos años antes u guaha dididi` adelantu. Makat na kontrariu i apenas pa`gu fondu gi kahan i tanu`. Sañgan i minagahet dispues tutuhon ansianu siha na pinetsige para in` adelanta rinikohen moneda para setbisiun publiku, pa`gu!

Hinasan Diskuidu

Hu chage umebalua haf` na mampos hit mandiskuidau ni kuttura yan tradision natibu. Kau ha hatme hit kustumbren konsentidot `nai mapla` satton na finanague haf` tinatet-ta deste kuttura, tradision yan liñguahi-ta?

Mampos matulaika mañan famaguon na tiempu. Maliñgu kustumbren manñgiñge` gi man-amko`, manfinu` Eñglis dimas de finu` Chamorro, kontodu kustumbren iphone yan ipad `nai ti mana` presisu respetu gi grasian Yuus tat kumu sentadan familia.

I presisu na adelanton espirituat kulan masotta gi kaprechon niha. Hasan tali`e` rinikohen familia para Misan Dameñgo. Megai lokue` ti manfafatu gi gima` Yuus. Ti hu komprende umesgin mamanu mage este i nuebu na kustumbren famaguon.

Ginen diskuidu-ta ni mañaina uttimoña tafana`gue famaguon-ta liñguahen niha kumu segundu liñguahe sa` tana` fofo`na i finu` Eñglish. Atan sa` klaru na tinatten kuttura yan tradision mina` likidu i rasan Chamorro guine siha na perlas.

Gi inai Lali Fo`

Umasoda`yu` yan un` achahet-hu ni dumañkulon Lali Fo` antes. Kanaha` trenta años ha diñgu i tanu`. Hu offrese mama` `nai ha afgue-gue` para unna` agaga` pachotña. In` atan i lugat `nai manpeska antes i maestron tasi `sino peskadot.

I mismu lugat `nai maselelebra lokue` gipot San Isidro, patron i señgsoñg gi kanton unai. Mauleg na ineyag gima` komunida yan maestron peska manmafana`gue i manhoben guihe na tiempu lumulai deste fisga, togcha`, panag, umetupag, talaya yan chenchulu.

Kulan mohon finattoña ume`emahalañg ni hagas soñgsoñg. Ha hassu sumaunau pumeska, muna` gasgas guihan, manlasas choda, mendioka yan sune gi preparasion gipot patron. Era sige ha kuestiona maliñgon finapos antes ni benefisiosu para i manhoben. Konfotmeyu`.

Ha hassu tatte i fasun man-amku` ni krumeansague` antes. Ilegña nu guahu yan mesgu` mataña, "Lastima!"

Chetnot Daibites

I neñkano`ta muna` fan mamadedese hit chetnot daibites. Ti na`duda na megai lokue` na mediku ti tumuñgu manu `nai gaige tutuhon este na chetnot.

I pahariya gi fihon estomaguta umareregla usuña i asukat ni gaige gi haga`ta. Ha hala guatu gi sagaña (cell) `nai siña i tatautau-ta hana setbe para mantension.

Diariu ti sessu ta repara haf` siha ta kakanu`. Bula mampos asukat gi neñkano`ta ni chumochoneg parahiya-ta mamaiche`chu` fuetsau. Tantu de tana` fachochu` mas ke fuñgsioña uttimoña malañgu.

Dos muna` lalamen parahiya-ta: Asukat yan asidu siha gi neñkano`ta. I primet mas muna` atmariariau kinalamten parahiya sa` ensegidas hana chadeg mampos kinalamteña i asukat. Este yan mattirun asidu gi neñkanu kanaha` seguru na ha punu` kinalamten parahiya-ta.

Gigon pumara homlu` na kinalamten, manhalom hit gi chetnot daibites. `Nai guaha mas diskuidu, sige mona estake kontodu renihion-ta pininu`. Gi este na estau kontodu hinemlu` korason seriosamente inaminasa.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Bai` sige umina este na asuntu. Gi biradahu bai` lista i siete na neñkanu` ni miasidu kosake in` chage sumuhaye. Hagas ha estotbayu` este na chetnot sa` un` manada gi tautau-ta maninaminanasa na tiempu. Dispues, un` ratutu ha` mankineni`. Ti debi na taiguine na modun linala` u guaha gi halom natibu. Gaige satbasion giya hita mismu.

■■■

Pot chaleg: `Nai marisetayu` un` biahe ilegña i infetmera nu guahu, "Ai señor na minames hau!" Hu oppe na poresu na tihu nana`ye asukat esta i gimenhu kafe `an oga`an. Duru chumaleg. Deste ayu na tiempu (kasi 20 años malofan) hu ataha usun asukat yan dañkulu hu ribaha kuantu hu kakanu` diariu.

■■■

**Ha`anen Gupot:** Namagof finatton ha`anen gupot siha. Maseha man-aronsasada hit gi halom fache` chinatsaga ni unu sumeha umabiba finatton i Rai man-rai siha. Gi mismu tiempu mafattu siñienten luhan gi bira birada. Kasi todu pumadedese este.

■■■

Kliman: Pa`gu na sakan mapredikta na mas anaku` i tiempon maipe yan añglu`. Esta guaha siha na lugat gi tanu` manpininu` tinanom niha piot i sanlichan na patte giya dos America.

Mauleg ta akanteha umekuñgog haf` `ste na kinalamten. Seguruyu` na kontodu tupu` hanom-ta u fan inaminasa `an ha palo`pu` hit este na fina mattiru. Hu atotga umatbahet este na asuntu para muñga na u gacha` hit induktu.

America's drunk history

By SUSAN CHEEVER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Consider this a "trigger warning": The following essay may disturb and upset your view of American history, a history mostly written by scholarly types who distill vast amounts of research into erudite narratives. The trouble with their reverence and their gravitas is that they tend to leave out the interesting bits: sex, food and, especially, alcohol.

The effect of drinking on our national story begins with the Pilgrims, a desperate group of scrappy immigrant refugees who landed illegally on Cape Cod, although their charter from King James was for Virginia. They had to land; they were running out of beer.

"We could not now take time for further search and consideration," explained William Bradford, who would become governor of the Plymouth Bay Colony, "our victuals being much spent, especially our beer." If the Pilgrims had succeeded in going to Virginia, perhaps the American character would be slow-moving and gentlemanly instead of feisty, flinty and Yankee.

Abigail Smith Adams is often hailed as a Colonial stalwart, a smart wife who reminded her husband, President John Adams, to remember the ladies. You may have learned in school that she inoculated her family against smallpox, a gutsy move in the 18th century. But your teacher probably didn't mention that she was surrounded by alcoholics. Her hard-drinking brother, William Smith, succumbed to liver disease. Two of her sons _ Charles and Thomas _ died of alcoholism in their 30s. Like most alcoholics, Charles and Thomas Adams destroyed themselves, grieving their families and ruining their finances before they died. Two of Abigail's grandsons also died of alcoholism.

"Vices are hereditary in families," wrote a surviving Adams brother, Charles Francis. "Our family has been ... severely scourged by this vice."

There are more upbeat moments in the history of alcohol in America. The tide of the Civil War may, in fact, have turned when Abraham Lincoln got rid of a sober general and hired a man who had been previously fired from the Army for drinking. "What if Abraham Lincoln had not gotten around to replacing the sober General McClellan with the heavy-drinking General Grant?" political philosopher Strobe Talbott asked in his 2008 book, "The Great Experiment." "Would the Union have lost to the Confederacy and would some distant cousins of mine in Texas be living in a separate country?"

As Lincoln, who did not drink, understood, alcohol might well help a man become a warrior. When advisors complained to him about Grant's habit, Lincoln replied by saying he would like to get some barrels of what Grant was drinking to give to all of his generals.

One of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century _ the assassination of President John F. Kennedy _ was also affected by a bottle. The Secret Service agents who guarded the president and the first lady, and who rode in the car behind them in the Dallas motorcade, had been out until the early hours of the morning at the local press club and at a free-wheeling nightclub called the Cellar Coffee House. Some had been drinking. Did this impair their ability to protect the president at a moment that changed American history?

Chief Justice Earl Warren certainly thought so. "Don't you think that if a man went to bed reasonably early, and hadn't been drinking the night before, he would be more alert than if he stayed up until 3, 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning, going to beatnik joints and doing some drinking along the way?" he demanded of Secret Service head James Rowley.

Warren noted that some bystanders had seen Lee Harvey Oswald's gun barrel pointed out of the sixth-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository. How did the Secret Service men miss that, he wanted to know. Wouldn't they have been more likely to notice what was going on if they were "free from any of the results of liquor and lack of sleep?"

Drinking is often invisible. It is a powerful, mostly unnoticed force shaping history and current events. Because it is legal and because it is woven into the American grain, drinking goes unnoticed even when its effects are obvious. We drink to celebrate, to calm our nerves, to borrow courage, to mourn and just because it feels so good to take the edge off.

There's nothing wrong with drinking, but its role in human events should be recognized. People's lives were changed by what they drank, and this has changed who we are today.

Susan Cheever is the author of several books. Her latest is Drinking in America: Our Secret History*. She wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The folly of making an enemy out of Russia

I cannot help but see that there are linkages between what has been happening in Europe and what has been taking place in the Western Pacific and the broader Asia-Pacific region.

As stretched as it may sound, America's policy towards Ukraine, for example, has helped to create the conditions that are generating more distrust between the United States and Russia, to the benefit of the Chinese government and Chinese military.

Let me illustrate the point by referencing U.S. policy towardUkraine.

Our policy towards Ukraine—that of bringing the country into NATO's orbit of influence and favor—is ineffective and distractive and U.S. actions have in part created the incentives for the Russian military to continue to conduct overflights in international airspace near the island of Guam and the Northern Marianas as well as overflights near Japan and Alaska that demonstrate Russia's military reach into a region of the world that has been an area of American military dominance for decades.

Ukraine is a core national interest of Russia because it borders Russia.

Ukraine is not a core national interest of the United States nor should it be.

What is needed, is a political settlement on the issue of Ukraine negotiated between the West and Russia because our current policy of supporting pro-western forces in Ukraine by providing old military equipment and American military advisory resources will not produce a strategic outcome favorable to the United States.

We cannot somehow neutralize forces loyal to Moscow through arms deliveries nor should we contemplate the continuation of such a policy because American national resources are already overstretched and now is not the time to pick a bigger fight with Moscow.

This aggressive behavior by NATO, the EU and the United States will continue to hurt the U.S.' ability to garner assistance from Russia because it will complicate how we are able to apply political pressure on the Chinese government to dial down its military expansionist desires in the Asia-Pacific, to how we manage the crisis in Syria while we seek ways to better mitigate divergent U.S. Russian interests tied to the Assad regime and its ability or inability to fight against ISIL.

Our nation seems to be lacking clarity in its global strategic outlook beyond wanting to be the world's policeman. Use of American military power worldwide cannot produce or sustain U.S. primacy and influence in every nook and cranny throughout the globe over time.

American resources are limited and as it stands, the cost to American taxpayers of underwriting the security umbrella in the Asia-Pacific region alone is cost prohibitive and, for islanders such as myself, stands to bring about unnecessary permanent harm and stress to our island chain's total environment and subsequent injury to our Chamorro culture because of the Pentagon's desire for forward basing and forward deployment of military assets and supplies.

My worry is that if the U.S. does not change its policy toward Ukraine and we continue to not mend the gaps with Russia on the Syrian debacle, the Russian military will continue to be incentivized to fly into and throughout the Asia-Pacific region to challenge American military primacy in the area that includes conducting additional flights near Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

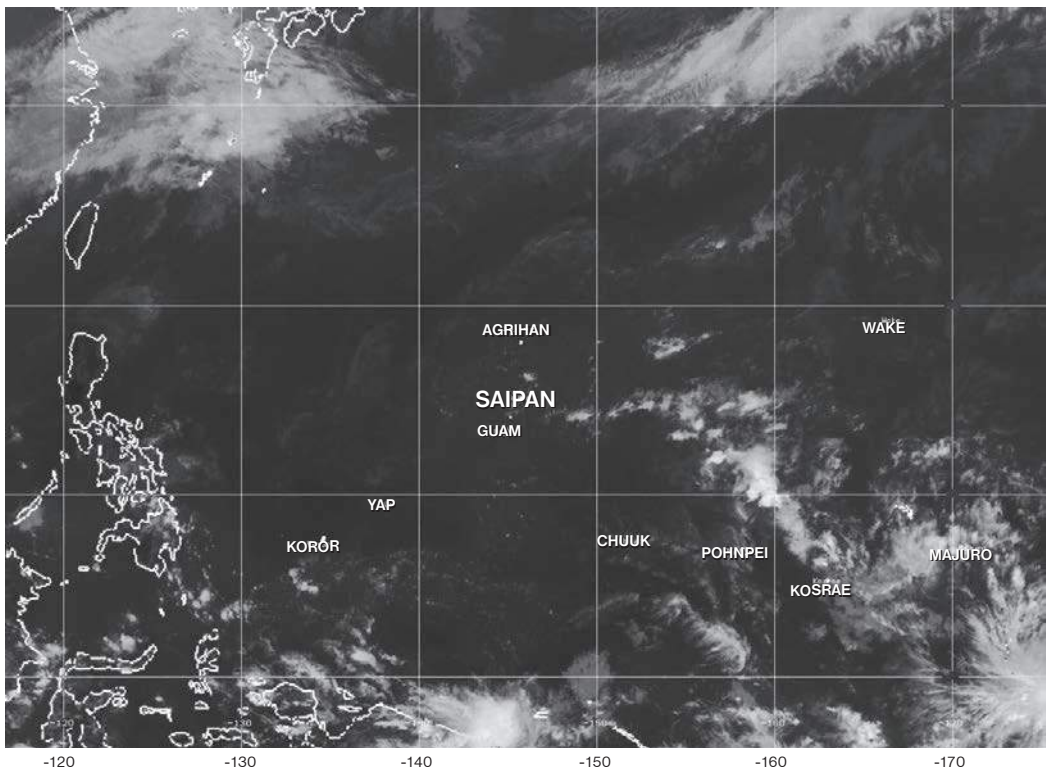
Rick Perez
Hanover, NH

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front curves westward through 25N142E to 23N135E through 25N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are occurring west of Iwo To island along and north of this front to beyond 25N. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae within an area bounded by a line from 15N148E to 16N160E to 5N164E back to 15N148E. A tropical disturbance is generating areas of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Majuro and east of Kosrae within 130 miles of a line from 4N165E to 9N173E and near Butaritari east of a line from 5N174E to EQ172E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲70	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲40	▼21
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼66
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼44
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲88	▼57
Miami	Thundershowers	▲81	▼71
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼41
Osaka	Windy	▲51	▼46
Paris	Showers	▲53	▼45
Pusan	Windy	▲50	▼37
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼45
Salem	Rain	▲52	▼42
San Francisco	Rain	▲60	▼48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲40	▼33
Tokyo	Windy	▲57	▼41
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲51	▼35

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:53 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
2:03 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:39 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Monday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		12:14 PM
Friday	12:23 AM	12:53 PM
Saturday	1:10 AM	1:31 PM
Sunday	1:56 AM	2:09 PM
Monday	1:56 AM	2:09 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:15pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

WeChat users choose 'Little Representatives of Saipan'

MVA

"Little Representatives of Saipan" who were chosen by a contest in China enjoy a familiarization tour of Saipan with island friends on Nov. 12, 2015.

MVA

"Little Representatives of Saipan" show their enthusiasm for their familiarization tour of Saipan during their welcoming dinner on Nov. 13, 2105. Also pictured at right is Marianas Visitors Authority marketing apecialist Laura Hsiao.

MVA

"Little Representatives of Saipan" enjoy arts and crafts during a familiarization tour of Saipan with island friends on Nov. 12, 2015.

WeChat is a mobile text and voice messaging communication service with 500 million users. The users of WeChat recently voted for eight "Little Representatives of Saipan" who won a familiarization tour of Saipan this month.

The contest was held by the Marianas Visitors Authority, Zhejiang Rong Ke Zhi Di company, and newspapers *Xiaoshan Daily* and *Qianjiang Evening Paper* in the Hangzhou region of China. The kids competed in the areas of language expression, talent and skill, and stage performance in areas promoting tourism resources of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The eight winning children, ages 4 to 12, visited Saipan with their families for a trip that was supported by Sina, website technology company NetEase, and WeChat developer Tencent. The familiarization tour will receive coverage online and via newspapers and radio.

"'Little Representatives of Saipan' is a unique promotion created by our China office in collaboration with major supporters to bring attention to the Northern Marianas to a new audience," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "At this time most of our visitors from China are couples, and we would love to see the percentage of families grow. Our destination has a lot to offer families."

While on Saipan, the group visited various attractions, including beaches, historic sites, and the American Memorial Park. They experienced marine activities, making traditional arts and crafts, and making coconut candy. They also had the opportunity to meet students and other children.

According to MVA marketing specialist Laura Hsiao, who joined the group for their welcoming dinner, the organizer expressed strong satisfaction with the tour arrangements and is interested in organizing more cultural exchange programs to the Northern Marianas. ***(MVA)***

MTEC: What is the No. 1 reason visitors come to the NMI?

MTEC

Students of Dandan Middle School listen to Marianas Tourism Education Council member Catherine Perry as she shares the importance of tourism and environmental protection on Nov. 2, 2015.

What is the No. 1 reason visitors come to the Northern Mariana Islands?

The answer to this question—nature—is the highlight of presentations to middle schools being made by the Marianas Tourism Education Council. Continuing its annual outreach to schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, MTEC is emphasizing the importance of environmental protection to middle school students.

"This year, we want to focus on specific tourism messages for specific age groups," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "For middle school students, it's all about recognizing, appreciating, and protecting our natural resources."

MTEC presented at Dandan Middle School on Nov. 2 and at Chacha Oceanview Middle School on Nov. 6. The presentations also covered tourism statistics and benefits, marketing and signature events by the Marianas Visitors Authority and careers in the industry. The MTEC gave "Saipanda" as an example of one of the MVA's marketing tools. MVA Community Projects specialist Ryan Calvo presented information about sports and cultural events on the islands.

MTEC plans to visit all public schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota in partnership with the MVA.MTEC will also present to private schools upon request. Interested schools may contact Calvo at the MVA at 664-3200 /3210 or rcalvo@mymarianas.com. ***(MTEC)***

MTEC

Students of Chacha Oceanview Middle School show their enthusiasm about winning prizes during the quiz session of the Marianas Tourism Education Council at their school on Nov. 6, 2015.

MTEC

Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente educates students at Dandan Middle School on the marketing tool "Saipan-da" on Nov. 2, 2015. Saipan-da backpacks from the Marianas Visitors Authority were awarded to students during the quiz portion of the presentation.

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$5.95
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Essential Home Its Cold Outside Oven Mitt
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Coleman 56Qt Wheeled Cooler
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Amelia's Fairytale Beauty Doll
$6.95

Amelia's Doll Play Set
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$8.95

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$19.95

Governor's Office transfers Water Task Force to CUC

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Governor delegated yesterday the responsibilities of the CNMI Water Task Force to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., which will now oversee and manage its remaining projects, according to a memorandum of agreement signed by acting governor Ralph DLG Torres and utility officials yesterday.

The MOA also notes that the Office of the Governor will remain the expenditure authority for contracts and fund accounts of the Water Task Force, and that the CNMI has delegated to CUC its powers over the direction of current task force projects.

The CNMI Water Task Force has operated under a previous MOA and amendments since 2003.

In 2003, the CNMI and CUC entered an agreement to create a task force to carry out a plan to achieve a water system that would supply 24-hour water to the residents of Saipan.

The MOA signed yesterday states that the CNMI now desires to dissolve the task force and transfer its employees, assets, and functions to CUC, including management of pending task force projects.

Through the agreement, CUC acknowledges it is willing to assume this task of overseeing the remaining projects.

According to the MOA, CUC and the CNMI agree, among several others, to the following:

■ CUC will assume responsibility of managing three current task force projects through completion: the Puerto Rico 1 Million Gallon Reservoir, the Gualo Rai Reservoir Replacement, and the Lower Base Water Distribution Improvement. CUC will assign an engineer to oversee the project, attend all progress meetings, oversee payment processes and purchase orders, and oversee related activities and services;

■ The CUC executive director, or acting director, is authorized by the Office of the Governor to act on its behalf in the role formerly held by the task force program manager. The Governor's Office, though, remains the expenditure authority for contracts and fund accounts for the task force projects;

■ Water task force employees will now be assigned to CUC, who will be responsible and supervise existing task force office employees and re-assign them within CUC according to needs at its discretion. CUC will also mange task force office operations beginning Dec. 7 until transition of office personnel and records to CUC offices are completed.

Ex-cop summoned on allegations of 'ice' use

The U.S. Marshal Service summoned former police officer Florencio Q. Richards on Tuesday in connection with the U.S. Probation Office's request to revoke his supervised release for allegedly using methamphetamine or "ice" again and committing other violations.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy issued the summons against Richards last Nov. 19.

Richards was directed to appear in court today, Dec. 3, at 1:30pm.

According to U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola, Richards tested positive for "ice" use and he admitted using the illegal drug on Oct. 11 and 21, 2015.

Arriola said Richards also failed to submit to a drug test on Oct. 11, 2015, and failed to report to the U.S. Probation Office for drug testing on Oct. 23, 2015.

Richards reportedly told the probation office that he was preoccupied with other activities and forgot to call the hotline, or that he had forgotten the appointment.

Last December, the federal court revoked Richards' supervised release and slapped him with a nine-month prison term for violating his probation by repeatedly using methamphetamine or "ice."

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona also ordered that upon Richards' release, he will be placed on 24 months of supervised release.

In July 2014, Arriola disclosed to the court that Richards has not complied with the conditions of his supervision by using "ice" on May 31 and June 1, 2014.

In August 2011, the court sentenced Richards to 24 months in prison for distributing "ice" while he was still an active officer.

On Jan. 30, 2014, Manglona revoked the supervised release of Richards and sent him to three months in prison with credit for time served for using "ice" again. The judge ordered that after serving the three months in prison, the defendant will be placed on 33 months of supervised release. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Suspect in DVIO burglary may change plea

The man accused of burglarizing the Domestic Violence Intervention Office on Capital Hill may change his plea of not guilty of the charges.

Franklin C. Crisostomo Jr., 35, through counsel, and assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas have notified the Superior Court about ongoing negotiations for plea agreement.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered Crisostomo on Tuesday to appear in court for a change of plea hearing on Jan. 13, 2016.

Wiseman warned Crisostomo that if he fails to appear at the scheduled change of plea hearing, a bench warrant will be issued for his arrest.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Crisostomo with burglary and theft.

According to Barcinas, Crisostomo burglarized the Domestic Violence Intervention Office on Capital Hill on Sept. 15, 2015.

Barcinas said the suspect stole a Toshiba television, Acer desktop computer, Lenovo laptop with bag, several Family Violence plastic bags, and family violence task force bags. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Storytelling by local author at JKPL

A local author, Katrina Manning, will be the honorary storyteller at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library for their Storytime event on Dec. 10.

According to acting library director Erlinda Naputi, attendees will enjoy a selection of family-friendly stories written and read by Manning.

"Don't miss this opportunity to meet a local author and introduce readers to the magic of a shared story," Naputi said.

The event will take place at the JKPL Main Lobby at 4:30pm.

"This is a free drop-in event and all ages are welcome," Naputi said.

Manning, a technical writer by trade, is the editor-in-chief for an online tech blog. She now has two books out and is working on a third.

Manning's first book, Marmalade's Exciting Tail, is set in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. It is a modern story of Claire Young, a Web developer who recently broke up with her fiancé. Planning for a fresh start, she starts packing to move to another city for an intriguing job offer when her cat escapes and runs away. Claire cannot imagine losing her furry best friend, so she does the first thing that comes to mind—she asks her ex-fiancé, Kirk, to assist her in the heart-wrenching search.

Aside from books, Manning has written thousands of online technical and business articles under her name and as a ghostwriter. She is also a ghostwriter for a well-known global software company. Her love of animals inspired her to write her first fiction novella.

Webisode project promotes Chamorro culture and language

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ketungu' Chamorro, a Webisode project whose pilot episode was sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, seeks to enrich and further the understanding of the Chamorro language and cultural history within Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Ketungu' Chamorro is being produced to secure the continuing growth of the Chamorro language and cultural history by producing high-quality Webisodes for the general public, according to producer and director Valentina Rivera.

The projects employ a certified Chamorro language expert to teach cultural and language lessons and encourages audience participation within the show. The proposed series includes 20 episodes, with each lesson focusing on different subjects such as the Chamorro alphabet, numbers, vocabulary words, poems, short stories, and local legends.

"Ketungu Chamorro is designed to restore cultural knowledge within the communities of the CNMI. It is intended as well to extend that information to the indigenous people who are living abroad and would like to continue their studies in the language and historical background of their ancestry. From parents to children, the content will be geared toward obtaining and expanding their views of the Chamorro language and history through the scholar's lesson plan, which will be properly overviewed and delivered in the best format possible," Rivera said.

The proposed audience is for anyone interested in learning the Chamorro language as well as the history and cultural background of the CNMI's indigenous people.

"From parents and their children to spouses and relatives in all walks of life, Ketungu Chamorro should have an open discussion in being able to enhance the knowledge of the Chamorro language and the history of the CNMI to those with a curious mind..." she says.

"The show's intention is to fulfill the dire need to further the knowledge and expand the audience of the Chamorro language…to the world at large using the Internet. With such an open format, people throughout the world…can continue their studies in mastering the language of the Chamorro people as well as further their understanding and knowledge of the history and cultural background of the CNMI," she said.

The webisode is hosted and taught by Jennifer Magofna, a former instructor for the Public School System's Chamorro language heritage studies for six years, whose passion is to pass down and enhance students' knowledge and welcome new learners of the Chamorro language and culture. She plans to continue to engage in preserving, protecting, and practicing the Chamorro heritage globally through Ketungu' Chamorro "We Learn Chamorro."

For more information or if you'd like to sponsor a webisode, call 285-6728 or email riverspictures07@gmail.com.

TREE LIGHTING RITES DAISY DEMAPAN

Make-A-Wish Foundation Wish Kids gather at the Hyatt Regency Saipan lobby for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in conjunction with the company's 35th anniversary. The event boasted over 50 attendees with the Koblerville Umang Glee Club serenading the crowd with Christmas classics.

Asia

US Marine found guilty of killing transgender Filipino

OLONGAPO, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court on Tuesday convicted a U.S. Marine of killing a Filipino last year after he discovered she was a transgender woman in a hotel in the Philippines while he was on a break after participating in joint military exercises in the country.

Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton was convicted of homicide by first strangling Jennifer Laude and then dunking her head into a toilet bowl in the hotel they had checked into after meeting in a disco bar in Olongapo city, northwest of Manila. He was sentenced to 6-12 years in jail, with time already spent in detention credited, said court clerk Gerry Gruspe.

Laude's mother, Julita, said that while she was happy the verdict detailed everything that had transpired, she was not pleased with the jail term because she had hoped Penderton would be found guilty of murder, a more serious crime than homicide.

"But the important thing is he will be jailed," she said, crying. "My son's life is not wasted."

Outside the courthouse, a small number of left-wing activists rejoiced but warned that they would closely watch to ensure Pemberton is detained in a Philippine jail, as the judge ordered.

AP

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton, left, arrives for the verdict of his court case for the killing of Filipino transgender Jennifer Laude, at Olongapo city, Zambales province, northwest of Manila, Philippines on Tuesday Dec. 1, 2015.

The Oct. 11, 2014, killing sparked anger in the Philippines and reignited calls by left-wing groups and nationalists for an end to America's military presence in the country at a time when the U.S. is reasserting its dominance in Asia and Manila has turned to Washington for support amid an escalating territorial dispute with China.

Pemberton, an anti-tank missile operator from New Bedford, Massachusetts, was one of thousands of American and Philippine military personnel who participated in a joint exercise last year. He and a group of other Marines were on leave after the exercise and met Laude and her friends at a bar in Olongapo, a city known for its nightlife located outside Subic Bay, a former U.S. Naval base. At least two witnesses testified that Laude was a sex worker.

Pemberton and Laude left the bar and checked in together at a nearby hotel. About 30 minutes later, Pemberton walked out, leaving the room's door ajar, according to hotel staff.

Pemberton testified in August that he had choked Laude during a fight that erupted when he discovered she was a transgender woman, but said she was still alive when he left her in a shower, according to his lawyer, Rowena Garcia Flores.

Lawyers of the Laude family, however, said Laude was dead when Pemberton left her. Police have said that Laude had apparently been drowned in a toilet.

In the decision, Regional Trial Court Judge Roline Ginez-Jabalde ordered Pemberton jailed at the New Bilibid Prison, a national penitentiary in suburban Muntinlupa City.

The case also revived a debate over which government should have custody of U.S. military personnel who run afoul of local laws under a Visiting Forces Agreement the two allies signed in 1998.

Suu Kyi meets Myanmar's outgoing president

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)—Nearly a month after her party's crushing election win, Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi held closed-door talks with Myanmar's outgoing president Wednesday to discuss what both hope will be a "smooth" transition of power.

Because it took so long for the two to meet, there were some concerns the still powerful military would not easily accept the results.

Suu Kyi was expected to meet with Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the commander-in-chief, later Wednesday.

The Southeast Asian nation started moving from a half-century of dictatorship toward democracy in 2011, when military rulers inexplicably agreed to hand over power to a nominally civilian government headed by President Thein Sein, a general turned "reformist."

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy easily won the Nov. 8 vote, securing enough seats in both the lower and upper parliament to form a government. Though a clause in the 2008 military-drafted constitution bars her from the presidency, she has vowed to rule by proxy.

Presidential spokesman Ye Htut told reporters the meeting at Thein Sein's residence in the sprawling capital, Naypyitaw, lasted about 45 minutes.

"The main point was to talk about a smooth transition and transfer of power to the newly elected government," he said, "and to discuss mutual cooperation in the future."

Another goal, he said, was simply to "ease people's concerns."

Despite the NLD's landslide victory, most analysts agree, it would be almost impossible to govern without the support of the military establishment. By law, the military still controls a quarter of the seats in parliament, giving it veto power over all constitutional amendments. It also has a grip on all key security portfolios.

Ye Htut told reporters the meeting between Suu Kyi and Thein Sein was amicable.

The president congratulated "The Lady," as she is popularly known, for leading her party to victory. And Suu Kyi said she was thankful that the elections were free and fair, as promised.

The transfer of power should take place in February after the new Parliament meets and votes on a new president, along with two vice presidents.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan probes mystery boats carrying dead bodies off coast

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese authorities are investigating nearly a dozen wooden boats carrying decomposing bodies found drifting off the northwestern coast over the past month. Coast Guard officials said Tuesday they have found at least 11 shoddy boats carrying the bodies of unknown nationality since late October. They have also found fishing equipment and nets on board and signs written in Korean, suggesting they came from North Korea. Officials say dozens of wrecked boats drift toward Japan's northwestern coasts facing the Sea of Japan every year. This year, officials have found 34 mystery boats so far, including the 11 found between late October and November. Last year, Japan found 65 of them, and 80 more in 2013, according to the Coast Guard.

Southern India flooding closes airport, cuts off power

NEW DELHI (AP)—Torrential rains have forced an airport in southern India to close and have cut off several roads and highways, leaving tens of thousands of people stranded. Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju said Wednesday that the annual winter monsoon rains in Tamil Nadu state are the heaviest the region has seen in decades. Army and naval rescue teams are helping evacuate residents stranded in low-lying areas. The airport in the state capital Chennai was closed earlier on Wednesday, and television channels reported that most main roads in the city were blocked by several feet of water and that power supplies had been cut. The state has seen heavy rains for two weeks, and more heavy rain is forecast over the next several days.

Hearings to begin over battle on moving US base in Okinawa

TOKYO (AP)—Hearings are due to begin in a legal battle between the Japanese government and the local government in Okinawa over plans to move a U.S. military air base on the southern island. The hearing Wednesday is for a lawsuit filed by the central government seeking to overturn Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga's cancellation of an earlier local approval for land reclamation needed for the base's relocation. The long-stalled plan would move the U.S. Marine Air Station Futenma from a densely populated neighborhood to the island's seaside Henoko Bay. Many residents want the base moved out of the prefecture, and have picketed the area, trying to prevent construction equipment from entering.

Rudder problem, pilot actions led to Indonesia AirAsia crash

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A rudder control system problem that had occurred nearly two dozen times in the previous 12 months coupled with the pilots' response led to last year's crash of an AirAsia plane in Indonesia that killed all 162 people on board, investigators said Tuesday.

In releasing their report, the country's National Transportation Safety Committee said an analysis of Flight 8501's data recorder showed the rudder control system had sent repeated warnings to the pilots during the Dec. 28 flight from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore.

Aircraft maintenance records for the Airbus A320 showed that similar problems with the rudder system had occurred 23 times during the year prior to the crash, including nine times in December. The investigators said the fault was caused by cracked soldering on an electronic card.

Investigator Nurcahyo Utomo said the malfunction by itself should not have been dangerous. But after the fourth time an alarm went off during the flight, a crew member apparently went outside of handbook recommendations and removed a circuit breaker to try to reset the system, he said.

The autopilot then became disengaged, and the aircraft began to roll, but no movement was detected on the plane's manual control stick for nine seconds, he said. It then began climbing rapidly before stalling and plummeting into the Java Sea.

Utomo said the voice recorder showed the pilot said "pull down," but in fact the plane was ascending.

"It seemed that there was a miscommunication between the pilot and co-pilot after the fourth fault," he said.

The same warnings had occurred three days before the crash with the same pilot, who witnessed a technician on the ground addressing the problem by removing the circuit breaker and then replacing it, according to Utomo and the investigation report. The data recorder showed the circuit breaker was apparently removed during the flight, they said.

Ruth Simatupang, a former Indonesian aviation investigator who was not involved with the report, questioned how the rudder system problems could have continued without any proper action by AirAsia or the government.

Rudder problem, pilot actions led to crash

A rudder control system problem that had occurred nearly two dozen times in the previous 12 months coupled with the pilots' response, led to last year's crash of an AirAsia plane in Indonesia that killed all 162 people on board.

Sources: AP, FlightRadar24, Airbus, BBC TNS

World

Islamic State group targets gays with brutal public killings

AP
In this picture posted on a social media account affiliated with the Islamic State group on June 14, 2015, IS militants stone a man accused of violating the extremists' ban on homosexuality after they threw him from a roof in the city of Homs, Syria.

REYHANLI, Turkey (AP)—Before a crowd of men on a street in the Syrian city of Palmyra, the masked Islamic State group judge read out the sentence against the two men convicted of homosexuality: They would be thrown to their deaths from the roof of the nearby Wael Hotel.

He asked one of the men if he was satisfied with the sentence. Death, the judge told him, would help cleanse him of his sin.

"I'd prefer it if you shoot me in the head," 32-year-old Hawas Mallah replied helplessly. The second man, 21-year-old Mohammed Salameh, pleaded for a chance to repent, promising never to have sex with a man again, according to a witness among the onlookers that sunny July morning who gave The Associated Press a rare first-hand account.

"Take them and throw them off," the judge ordered. Other masked extremists tied the men's hands behind their backs and blindfolded them. They led them to the roof of the four-story hotel, according to the witness, who spoke in the Turkish city of Reyhanli on condition he be identified only by his first name, Omar, for fear of reprisals.

Notorious for their gruesome methods of killing, the Islamic State group reserves one of its most brutal for suspected homosexuals. Videos it has released show masked militants dangling men over the precipices of buildings by their legs to drop them head-first or tossing them over the edge. At least 36 men in Syria and Iraq have been killed by IS militants on charges of sodomy, according to the New York-based OutRight Action International, though its Middle East and North Africa coordinator, Hossein Alizadeh, said it was not possible to confirm the sexual orientation of the victims.

The fear of a horrific death among gay men under Islamic State rule is further compounded by their isolation in a deeply conservative society that largely shuns them.

Many Muslims consider homosexuality to be sinful. Gay men are haunted constantly by the possibility that someone, perhaps even a relative, will betray them to the militants - whether to curry favor with IS or simply out of hatred for their sexual orientation. Islamic State group fighters sometimes torture suspected homosexuals to reveal their friends' names and search their laptops and mobile phones. Even among IS opponents, gays find little sympathy. Some in the public who might be shocked by other IS atrocities say killings of gays is justified. Syrian rebel factions have killed or abused gays as well.

A 26-year-old Syrian gay man told the AP that even two years after fleeing to Turkey, he wakes up shaken by nightmares that he is about to be hurled from a building. The man spoke on condition that he be identified as Daniel Halaby, the name he now uses in his activism tracking IS atrocities, and that the city in Turkey where he lives not be named for his own safety.

Halaby says a childhood friend who became radicalized and joined IS betrayed him to the militants in 2013, forcing him to flee his home city of Aleppo.

"He knew everything about me, such as being secular and gay. ... I am sure he is the one who gave my name to Daesh," he said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

At that time, in mid-2013, IS had just started to spread from neighboring Iraq into Syria. It didn't yet hold the large stretches of territory across both countries that it would capture the next year. Instead, its fighters pushed into rebel-held areas in Syria and tried to dominate other rebels, often clashing with them for control and imposing the group's strict law wherever they could.

In September 2013, IS fighters besieged the Aleppo neighborhood where Halaby lived with his family, trying to wrest it from the rebel Free Syrian Army. The two sides negotiated over an end to the siege and, during the talks, IS gave the rebels a list of people they demanded be handed over to them. Halaby said he learned his name was on that list.

He quickly escaped to Turkey.

There, his bedroom is decorated with a flag of the Syrian opposition and a rainbow banner that covers an entire wall. His parents, who remain in Aleppo, refuse to talk to him because of his sexual orientation. When he watches videos of gays being killed, he said, "What breaks my heart most is that I feel helpless."

Life for gays in Aleppo, Syria's biggest city, was always hidden, Halaby said. When the secular-led peaceful protests erupted against President Bashar Assad in 2011, he said he quickly joined, sure they would lead to a democratic government "that will respect everyone no matter their religion, ethnicity, sect or sexuality."

"We were very naive," he said. "What happened was exactly the opposite."

Subhi Nahas, a 28-year-old gay Syrian who now lives in San Francisco, said he fled because he feared his own father might turn him in to al-Qaida's affiliate, the Nusra Front, which also has targeted homosexuals.

UN experts: Up to 3,000 Islamic State fighters in Libya

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The Islamic State group has between 2,000 and 3,000 fighters in Libya and has demonstrated its intention to control more territory in the strategically located North African country—but it is only one player among multiple warring factions, United Nations experts said in a report Tuesday.

The experts monitoring U.N. sanctions against al-Qaida and spinoff groups said in the report to the U.N. Security Council that the Islamic State group is benefiting from its "appeal" and notoriety in Iraq and Syria and poses "an evident short and long-term threat in Libya."

The group's central command views Libya "as the 'best' opportunity to expand its so-called caliphate" from Syria and Iraq, the experts said.

The 24-page report cautioned, however, that the group "faces strong resistance from the population, as well as difficulties in building and maintaining local alliances"—and stressed that its threat "needs to be realistically assessed."

Nonetheless, the experts said there is concern at the spread of the Islamic State group in Libya, given the country's strategic location on the Mediterranean Sea and its use as a transit point in North Africa.

More territory would not only enable IS and al-Qaida-linked groups to further influence ongoing conflicts in North Africa and the Sahel but give the extremists a new hub outside the Middle East, they said.

Eight independent experts appointed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to monitor sanctions against Al-Qaeda and IS wrote the report.

Oil-rich Libya slid into chaos following the 2011 toppling and killing of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. It is divided between an elected parliament and government based in the eastern port city of Tobruk and an Islamist militia-backed government in the capital Tripoli—with militants from IS and al-Qaida also exploiting the chaos.

The United Nations has been pressing the rival governments to form a national unity government, so far unsuccessfully. The international community views a united government as the first step toward addressing the threat posed by extremist groups, and the perilous migration by tens of thousands of asylum seekers across the Mediterranean from Libya to Europe.

The report said the current political and security challenges in Libya have provided an opportunity for IS and al-Qaida-linked groups including Ansar al-Sharia, which took part in the 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb known as AQIM, "to opportunistically exploit and complicate an already difficult situation on the ground."

It said Ansar Al-Sharia in Benghazi and Ansar Al-Sharia in Derna "seem to have weakened" since the Islamic State group established a foothold in Libya, due to the loss of fighters who either joined IS or were killed during clashes with its militants.

AQIM, the Islamic extremist group Al-Mourabitoun which carried out attacks in Mali last month, and Ansar Al-Sharia in Tunisia, "continue to use the country as a rear base for their operations in the region," the report said.

The panel said senior leaders of AQIM, which has taken advantage of the turmoil in Libya since 2011, see the growing appeal of IS as serious competition for their group.

WORLD BRIEFS

New arrest in Paris attacks linked to apartment raid

PARIS (AP)—A woman was arrested Tuesday in a Paris suburb for suspected links to an intermediary to the only man charged in connection the Paris attacks, according to two officials close to the investigation. The officials, who requested anonymity to talk about the ongoing investigation, told The Associated Press that the woman, whose name wasn't revealed, is the partner of the intermediary. The intermediary, 25, whose name hasn't been made public, had been arrested earlier on Tuesday in his home in Malakoff, south of Paris, by counterterrorism police. A few hours later, police went with the suspect to search another apartment in Saint-Denis and arrested his partner who was there. The man and his partner have been taken into custody west of Paris. The intermediary was in contact with Jawad Bendaoud, who was handed preliminary charges for providing housing to Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the suspected planner of the Nov. 13 Paris attacks that killed 130 people. The intermediary, who has been known by the police only for drug trafficking so far, was also in contact with Abaaoud's cousin, Hasna Aitboulahcen. His partner was arrested in Saint-Denis, a northern suburb of Paris, where a police assault killed Abaaoud, his female cousin and a third man on Nov. 18.

Italy urges quicker refugee relocations across Europe

ROME (AP)—The latest news as tens of thousands of people slip into Europe and head to wealthy European Union countries in search of a better life. All times local. 3:10 p.m. Italy hopes the slow pace of relocating asylum-seekers to other European Union countries will quicken. So far, only 133 of 40,000 asylum-seekers have been resettled from Italy, with the first departing in October. Interior Ministry official Riccardo Mattei said Tuesday that "mutual trust" must develop between sending and receiving countries for the EU program to succeed. He expressed hope that the number of asylum-seekers Italy relocates to other countries will double in the next few weeks. Another ministry official, Simona Spinelli, dismissed that fears terrorists might use the relocation program to move between countries, saying the refugees undergo criminal background and fingerprint checks. EU countries receive 6,000 euros in EU funds ($6,500) per each person resettled. Asylum-seekers who arrived in Greece and Hungary are also being resettled.

Environment

Obama says parts of climate deal must be legally binding

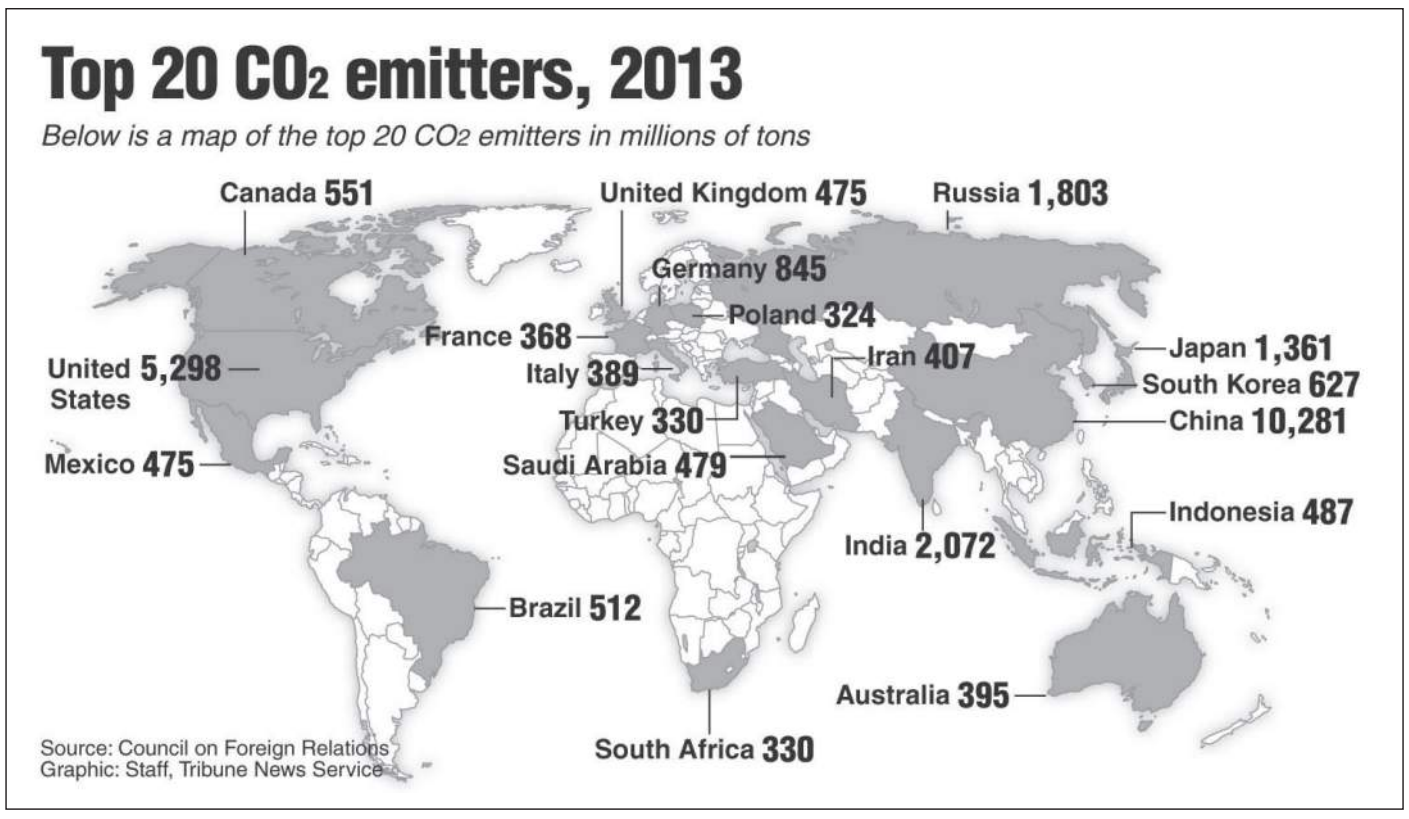
LE BOURGET, France (AP)—President Barack Obama said Tuesday that parts of the global warming deal being negotiated in Paris should be legally binding on the countries that sign on, setting up a potential fight with Republicans at home.

Obama's stand won praise at the U.N. climate conference from those who want a strong agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas. But it could rile conservatives in Washington, especially if he tries to put the deal into effect without seeking congressional approval.

The Obama administration has pledged during the international talks to reduce U.S. emissions by up to 28 percent by 2025. But inscribing the emissions target in the Paris deal would probably require the president to submit the pact to the GOP-controlled Congress, where it would be unlikely to win ratification. Many Republicans doubt global warming is real or fear that stringent pollution controls could kill jobs.

So the administration is looking to keep the targets out while including binding procedures on when and how countries should periodically review and raise their targets.

"Although the targets themselves may not have the force of treaties, the process, the procedures that ensure transparency and periodic reviews, that needs to be legally binding," Obama said in Paris, "and that's going to be critical."



Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and a fierce critic of Obama's policies, fired back immediately.

"The U.S. Senate will not be ignored. If the president wishes to sign the American people up to a legally binding agreement, the deal must go through the Senate," he said in a statement. "There is no way around it."

The White House previously said parts of the deal should be legally binding, but this is the first time Obama has said it himself and spelled out which ones.

Obama's comments brought relief to the French hosts of the conference, who were worried about whether the U.S. wanted a binding deal at all after Secretary of State John Kerry told The Financial Times that the agreement was "definitely not going to be a treaty" and that there was "not going to be legally binding reduction targets."

"The fact that the United States of America could commit to a binding agreement, whilst before there was a doubt because of Congress, is really extraordinary news that comes at a good time," French Environment Minister Segolene Royal said.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and other top Republicans have warned other countries not to trust any deal Obama may strike. Other GOP politicians moved to block Obama's plan to force steep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

On Tuesday, the House passed two resolutions disapproving Obama's rules to reduce carbon emissions from power plants despite a promised presidential veto.

At a news conference, House Speaker Paul Ryan was asked whether Congress was out of step with public opinion on climate change.

"I don't think we're out of step with public opinion wanting jobs, wanting economic growth, weighing the costs and the benefits," Ryan said. "I think when you weigh the costs and the benefits against these so-called legally binding obligations, they don't add up. I think it's very clear people want jobs."

At the Paris talks, the European Union has called for a legally binding agreement with emissions targets, but observers said it is likely to drop that demand over the next two weeks of negotiations to make sure the U.S. can join the deal.

"I think at end of the day everyone knows that for the U.S. to be part of this, it can't have the emissions target itself legally embedded in the treaty," said Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Nigel Purvis, a former U.S. climate negotiator and president of the non-governmental organization Climate Advisers, said Obama has all the legal authority he needs to enter an agreement where only some elements are binding.

Obama on Tuesday also announced a U.S. contribution of $30 million to help make insurance against climate-related damage available in the Pacific, Central America and Africa.

Earlier in the day, the president met with leaders of small island nations who fear their countries will be swallowed up by rising seas. The Hawaii-born Obama said he understands the beauty and fragility of island life and called their populations "among the most vulnerable to the ravages of climate change."

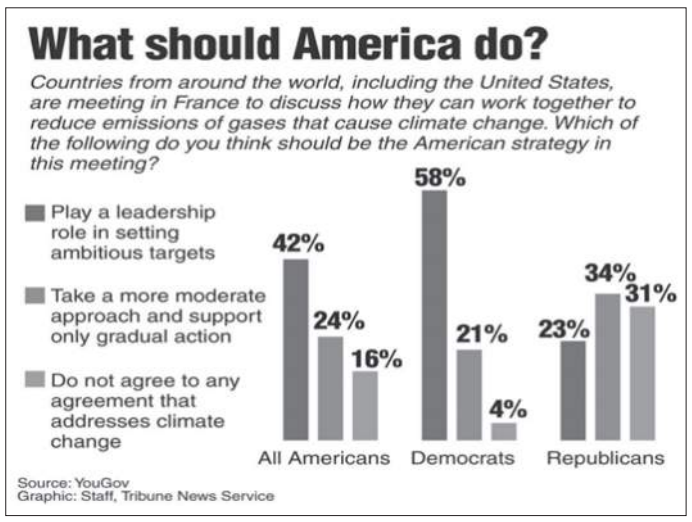
Meanwhile, French President Hollande heard from 12 African leaders who described the Sahara Desert encroaching on farmland, forests disappearing from Congo to Madagascar and rising sea levels swallowing homes in West African river deltas. Hollande said France will invest billions of euros in the coming years for renewable energy in Africa and to increase Africans' access to electricity.

"The world, and in particular the developed world, owes the African continent an environmental debt," he said.

African leaders also stressed the need to do something about the Lake Chad region, where the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram has been carrying out bloody attacks. The lake, surrounded by Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria, has shrunk as much as 90 percent since 1960, changing the lives of farmers, fishermen and herders. Some say the increasing desperation is driving people into the extremists' ranks.

The talks, which run through Dec. 11, are aimed at a broader, tougher replacement to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. That treaty required only rich countries to cut their emissions, while this time the goal is for everyone to pitch in.

After protesters clashed with police earlier this week, Paris police on Tuesday extended a ban on public demonstrations around the climate conference until it is over.


What should America do?
Countries from around the world, including the United States, are meeting in France to discuss how they can work together to reduce emissions of gases that cause climate change. Which of the following do you think should be the American strategy in this meeting?
Play a leadership role in setting ambitious targets
Take a more moderate approach and support only gradual action
Do not agree to any agreement that addresses climate change
42%
24%
16%
58%
21%
4%
23%
34%
31%
All Americans
Democrats
Republicans
Source: YouGov
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Clerics promote climate justice with music, fasting

PARIS (AP)—Imam Ibrahim Saidy brought his symposiums and his monthly fasting to the Paris climate talks, hoping to call attention to the problems and injustice of global warming.

He calls it "green jihad."

The Muslim cleric from Norway came up with the idea of an environmental holy movement a year ago. He uses the word jihad in its meaning of a struggle to do good, as opposed to extremists' use of it to signify a holy war.

"The green jihad is to protect and save lives," Saidy told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "To make people aware of the dangers of climate change and fight for climate justice."

Saidy is part of a growing interfaith religious movement seeking action by governments to fight global warming. For the past two years, about 10,000 religious activists have been fasting on the first day of the month to call attention to global warming, according to Caroline Bader of the Lutheran World Federation.

The idea came out of climate talks two years ago when Super Typhoon Haiyan smacked the Philippines, causing the Philippines negotiator at the climate talks to forego food. The religious faithful joined in and haven't stopped.

Saidy

Tuesday was a fast day, so Saidy and dozens of others sat behind empty food trays at the climate conference, talking about why they were not eating.

"I'm fasting today because our world will never be complete until there's space at the table—the climate just table—for everyone," said the Rev. John McCullough, the New York based head of Church World Service.

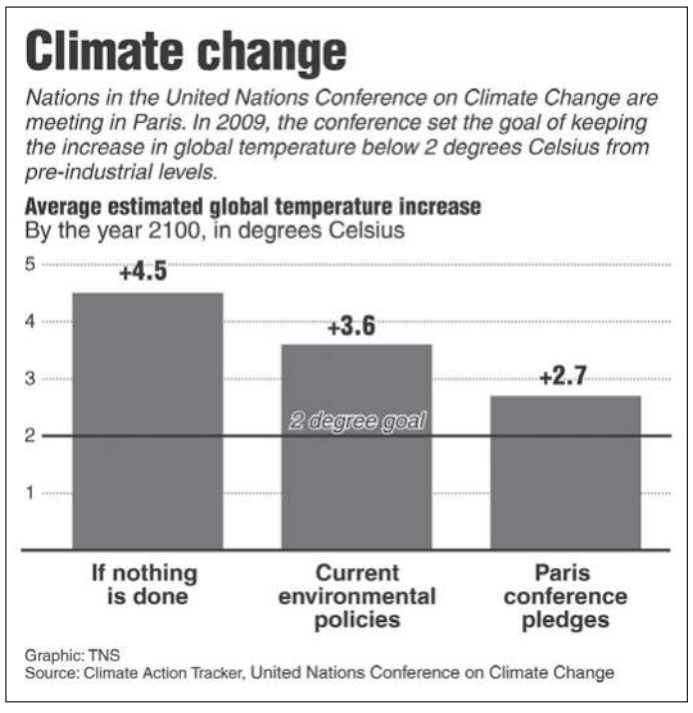
While Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment this year has lent a powerful moral voice to the issue of climate change, he is far from alone.

"The pope is an absolute rock star, a total gift to the climate movement," said Anna Joyner, a religious climate activist and campaign strategist for We Are Here Now in the United States.

"Our parents are more interested in the afterlife and the spiritual world," Joyner said. "Young evangelicals are also interested in those things but tend to be more focused on what we can do now and the whole idea of bringing the kingdom of heaven to Earth."

Joyner, the daughter of an Evangelical megachurch pastor, brought some Christian musicians from North Carolina to the Paris climate talks.

"Peace is at stake here," said the most Rev. Thabo Cecil Makgoba, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa. "It is both a moral and ethical issue. And it is a spiritual issue."


Climate change
Nations in the United Nations Conference on Climate Change are meeting in Paris. In 2009, the conference set the goal of keeping the increase in global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels.
Average estimated global temperature increase
By the year 2100, in degrees Celsius
5
4
3
2
1
+4.5
+3.6
+2.7
2 degree goal
If nothing is done
Current environmental policies
Paris conference pledges
Graphic: TNS
Source: Climate Action Tracker, United Nations Conference on Climate Change

Life & Style

Michael Caine reflects on 'Youth' and old age

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Caine sits down for lunch at the St. Regis Hotel in midtown New York clutching a copy of the day's Daily News given to him by the hotel doorman, who's earmarked a photo of Caine and his "Youth" co-star Jane Fonda.

"You wonder why I stay here," he chuckles. "I always remember the sort of joke thing in the British paper where the journalist said to the duchess, 'What's the best restaurant in London?' And she said, 'Where you're known, dear.' And I apply that to a lot of what I do."

Caine, 82, is known just about everywhere. Some know him as the star of British classics like "Alfie," ''The Italian Job" and "Get Carter." Others know him as Batman's butler (and a regular of just about every Christopher Nolan movie). Some might even know him just by the ubiquitous impressions of his indelible cockney accent, like Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon's dueling Michael Caines in "The Trip."

In Paolo Sorrentino's "Youth," which opens Friday, Caine puts a capstone on a career that has traveled from working-class upstart to cinema institution. Like most things in life, he's enjoying it.

Working now and then, Caine lives relatively quietly, focused on his family; he and his wife, Shakira Baksh, are moving from their updated barn outside London, so their 25-minute drive to their grandchildren can be cut down to 5. But he's also soaking up the adulation for his aged classical composer in "Youth," which some think could land him his sixth Oscar nomination.

"I've been nominated (for best actor) four times and I have never won," he says, smiling. "I fly for 11 hours to clap at another actor and then go home. It's a long way! So I'm not exactly clearing shelves. I've got two Oscars, anyway."

Sorrentino, the Italian director of the Oscar-winning "The Great Beauty," wanted Caine for his combination of authority and levity -- a description that hits on Caine's unique blend of good cheer and gravitas. Caine first struck Sorrentino in Woody Allen's "Hannah and her Sisters": "When I saw that, I thought: I would like to be like Michael Caine in life."

Wouldn't we all. Though Caine doesn't share his character's melancholy or regret he's similarly reflective—a two-time memoirist and an eager, colorful storyteller. "They say I'm a raconteur but what are you going to do?" he said. "There are stories to tell."

On retirement

"What am I going to do? Sit around and watch soaps on television all day? That's why I never retired. I retire mentally every time. I regard myself retired now. I don't have another script to do, so I'm retired. I always had this phrase that I said many times to reporters: You don't retire in movies. Movies retire you. (AP: Yet they're not.) That's the point. I retire and they say, "Oh, no you're not."

On fighting in Korea

"In Korea, I got into a situation where I knew I was going to die. There were four of us. You always worry that you may be a coward. The four of us found out two things that night. One, that none of us were cowards. And that our attitude to life was that we will make this as expensive as possible."

On his breakthrough

"'Alfie' was a stage play which I auditioned for and never got. I was the last choice of anybody. I shared a flat with Terence Stamp and he was offered 'Alfie.' I spent two days trying to talk him into doing it. Laurence Harvey, Anthony Newley were offered it. Funny enough, everyone turned it down because there was an abortion sequence in it. It was the first time I was nominated for an Oscar. But I had seen Paul Scofield in 'A Man for All Seasons,' so I didn't even bother to turn up."

Caine

On coming to Hollywood

"The first party I went to in Hollywood, Shirley MacLaine gave to welcome me to Hollywood. The first people to walk in were Gloria Swanson and Frank Sinatra. I was dumbstruck. Then she took me to dinner at Danny Kaye's house. There were only two other people there. One was Cary Grant and the other one was Prince Philip. I'm sitting there. I've been in Hollywood for three weeks. I took Shirley home. She lived in the Valley. As we got near to her home, I said, 'Look! Your house is on fire.' She said, 'Michael, that's steam from the pool.'"

On turning down Alfred Hitchcock

"I knew Hitchcock. We were from the same area, Londoners. When I first went to Hollywood for 'Gambit,' my bungalow at Universal was next to his. We became friends. Then when he offered me 'Frenzy,' he asked me to play a sadistic murderer of women and I wouldn't do it. And he never spoke to me again."

On Batman and his grandson

"We have very much a father-and-son relationship. When he was about 4, I was watching cartoons with him. And a commercial for "Batman" came on, and he looked at me and he went, 'You know Batman?' I said, 'Yeah' and he said, 'Wow, that's fantastic.'"

On pool scene of 'Youth' with a naked beauty model

"Paolo never told us about that, you know. He said to Harvey (Keitel) and me, 'Get in the pool. There's no dialogue.' He said 'Action!' and Madalina (Ghenea) walked in. Well that's the best acting you've ever seen on our faces because that's absolute reality."

On improvising on 'Youth'

"I had this habit of saying another funny line, which is just stupid. It's not going to be in the movie, but just to get a laugh. I'll do anything to get a laugh. But there was one where my daughter (Rachel Weisz) was sitting crying behind me and I couldn't see her. I just said, 'Stop crying.' And he left it in the movie. I like relaxation on a set, so I'm always going for a laugh. I can't act in a tense atmosphere."

On playing older parts

"I had had great success in movies. I had done 61, 62. And I got a script and I sent it back to the producer with a note saying I didn't want to do it, the part was too small. And he sent it back with a note saying, 'I didn't want you to read the lover. I wanted you to read the father.' That's when, as I like to say, you stop getting the girl, but you get the part."

On one similarity with his 'Youth' character

"There's a scene at the doctor's where I go to see the results of my exam and he says to me: 'What's it like feeling old?' And what struck me is the line I said to him, which is: 'I don't understand how I got here.' Six years ago I was 35. How the hell have I gotten to be 82? A reporter once said to me, 'How do you feel about growing old?' And I said to him, 'Well, considering the alternative, fabulous.'"

On the set of MTV's 'The Shannara Chronicles'

KUMEU, New Zealand (AP)—MTV's new fantasy series "The Shannara Chronicles" is set in the future but features elves and gnomes and promises plenty of old-fashioned adventure.

Best known for its reality shows, MTV hopes the new series will become its flagship scripted show after its Jan. 5 premiere. The network granted The Associated Press exclusive access during filming earlier this year in the town of Kumeu, in New Zealand's scenic wine country. Here's what some of the cast and crew said:

■ Poppy Drayton (who plays Ameberle Elessedil and whose previous credits include "Downton Abbey"):

"Well in Downton I wasn't head-to-toe in leather, for one. It's a lot more action-packed. There's sword-fighting and there's running through the woods and there's trekking through mountains and through treacherous terrain and fighting demons and fighting gnomes. It's all this sort of wonderful fantasy stuff."

■ Austin Butler (who plays Wil Ohmsford):

"After finishing filming here I would have spent a year of my life in New Zealand, which is pretty wild. It's just such a magical place. Whenever I Skype with friends back home or anything, I'm always just going, 'The locations that we're filming on. I'm swimming in a waterfall today, or I'm looking at this majestic landscape.'"

AP

In this May 13, 2015 photo, actress Ivana Baquero, center, prepares to shoot a scene during filming of MTV's new fantasy series "The Shannara Chronicles" in Kumeu, New Zealand.

■ John Rhys-Davies (who plays Eventine Elessedil):

"The casting is wonderful. Real eye-candy, and real young actors with an ability to act ... The question mark for me is, since it is a new venture for MTV, can they find the audience and can the audience find them? If they can do that, then this is going to be a real hit show."

■ Brad Turner (co-executive producer and director of four episodes):

"We've focused entirely on making the show cinematic. We're shooting with lenses you'd normally shoot for a movie, in a movie theater. We're using huge cranes, we're going to distant locations that normal television shows wouldn't want to because the logistics are so complex."

■ Ivana Baquero (who plays Eretria, and who spoke by phone):

"It's rare to be able to act and see on film such courageous, capable female characters. She (Eretria) is this really resourceful, feisty badass, who's also struggling emotionally throughout the show."

The show is based on a series of books written by Seattle-based author Terry Brooks.

"I grew up in a time when boys read science fiction. No one read fantasy," he said. "I didn't get to Tolkien until I was 21. It was transformative."

He said reading J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" opened up the possibility for him of writing in another world, one that was reminiscent of the fairy tales many people read growing up.

He said he was still a raw author when he began writing the series and for that reason is glad MTV chose to focus on the second book, "The Elfstones of Shannara." He said he considers it better than the first installment. For one thing, he said, he introduced two strong female characters after readers wrote to him complaining about the lack of women.

Brooks said movie studios have optioned his books over the years but have never followed through by making a movie, perhaps because technology hadn't caught up with the story's complexity.

He said many people were surprised he didn't choose to make the series with a network more well-established in the genre, like HBO. He said MTV ended up making the most aggressive offer and came up with the best production plan.

Mina Lefevre, MTV's head of scripted development, said the network had invested a lot in the series and hopes to raise its profile in scripted shows. She said she hopes the 10-episode first season is successful enough to warrant future seasons.

"We really want to make a big statement. We want the audience to know we are here and willing to take some risks," she said. "This is definitely a big show for us and a big swing for us."

Lefevre said the target audience is those aged 18 to 24, although she thinks younger teens and older fans of the book will also enjoy it.

"It's kind of like 'Game of Thrones', it's kind of like 'Lord of the Rings' but it's also unique to what it is," she said. "We're giving viewers an adventure that's filled with action, emotion, and human coming-of-age stories."

NBR names 'Mad Max: Fury Road' best film of the year

NEW YORK (AP)—The National Board of Review threw a fireball into Hollywood's awards season, naming the rollicking apocalyptic adventure "Mad Max: Fury Road" the best film of 2015.

George Miller's latest installment in the 1979-born action franchise is an unconventional pick from the National Board of Review, one of the oldest awards bodies in movies. But the group, founded in 1909, has recently tried to shed its stodgy image, previously giving J.C. Chandor's "A Most Violent Year" (in 2014) and Spike Jonze's "Her" (in 2013) its top honor.

In the awards announced Tuesday, the science-fiction hit "The Martian" came away with the most wins, taking best actor for Matt Damon, best director for Ridley Scott and best adapted screenplay for Drew Goddard. In the early going of awards season, "The Martian" is seen as the popular, big-budget contender likely to compete at the Academy Awards.

The National Board of Review, a collection of film enthusiasts and academics, eschewed several of the top independent contenders, like the journalism drama "Spotlight" (the big winner at Monday night's Gotham Independent Film Awards) and the 1950s romance "Carol."

Instead, the NBRs gave Quentin Tarantino's upcoming Western, "The Hateful Eight," awards for Tarantino's screenplay and Jennifer Jason Leigh's supporting actress performance. Sylvester Stallone was named best supporting actor for "Creed," the acclaimed reboot of Stallone's "Rocky" franchise.

Brie Larson won best actress for her performance as a captive mother in "Room." The group also singled out Larson's young co-star, Jacob Tremblay, for breakthrough performance, an award he shares with another young actor, Abraham Attah, the child soldier of the Netflix release "Beasts of No Nation."

The National Board of Review is known for spreading its awards around as much as possible, attracting a roomful of celebrities to its annual dinner in midtown New York. This year's ceremony will be hosted by NBC's Willie Geist on Jan. 5.

An award for best ensemble to Adam McKay's "The Big Short"—featuring Ryan Gosling, Steve Carell and Brad Pitt—will surely add star power to the gala.

The group awarded best documentary to the Amy Winehouse film "Amy"; best animated film to Pixar's "Inside Out"; and best foreign language film to the Holocaust drama "Son of Saul." The Mexican drug war thriller "Sicario" was singled out for the "spotlight award" for its "collaborative vision."

Chris Brown cancels Down Under tour after visa troubles

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Chris Brown canceled plans for a Down Under tour Wednesday after Australian authorities earlier warned the troubled R&B singer they were likely to refuse him a visa because of his criminal conviction for assaulting pop star Rihanna.

Ticketing agency Ticketek posted a statement from Brown's promoters saying the planned December tour of Australia and New Zealand had been canceled and those who had bought tickets would get refunds. In the statement, Brown thanked his fans and said he remained hopeful he could tour "in the near future."

Citing privacy concerns, Australia's immigration department on Wednesday declined to say whether they had refused Brown a visa. But in September, the department issued Brown a "notice of intention to consider refusal" which gave him 28 days to explain why he should be allowed into the country.

That notice came days after former Immigration Minister Michaelia Cash urged authorities to refuse the 26-year-old American a visa on character grounds.

"People need to understand if you are going to commit domestic violence and then you want to travel around the world, there are going to be countries that say to you: 'You cannot come in because you are not of the character we expect in Australia,'" Cash, who is now minister for women, told reporters.

As part of his tour, Brown had been scheduled to play one show in Auckland, New Zealand. Immigration authorities in New Zealand said Brown had withdrawn his application for a work visa to travel there before they ruled on it.

New Zealand authorities said that because Brown had been banned from some other countries, he would have needed a special visa to be allowed entry. They said Brown had applied for a visa once previously, in 2008, which they had granted.

Activists in Australia had campaigned to ban the singer from the country because of his brutal attack on his then-girlfriend, Rihanna, hours before the 2009 Grammy Awards. He pleaded guilty to felony assault and was freed from probation this year.

Zuckerberg is a dad, and he's giving away most of his money

In this undated photo provided by Mark Zuckerberg, Max Chan Zuckerberg is held by her parents, Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan Zuckerberg. AP

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife announced the birth of their daughter Max as well as plans to donate most of their wealth, or roughly $45 billion, to a new organization that will tackle a broad range of the world's ills.

Zuckerberg's wife, Priscilla Chan, gave birth last week to a baby girl. The couple didn't put out the news until Zuckerberg posted it Tuesday on—of course—Facebook.

In the same post, Zuckerberg said he and Chan will commit 99 percent of their Facebook stock to such causes as fighting disease, improving education, harnessing clean energy, reducing poverty and promoting equal rights. They are forming a new organization, called the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, to pursue those goals.

CNN erases description of Gray's mother as heroin addict

NEW YORK (AP)—Following protests online, CNN removed a description of Baltimore's Freddie Gray as "the son of an illiterate heroin addict" in a story posted about the first police officer about to go on trial for Gray's death last spring while in police custody.

Several tweets suggested that the reference amounted to victim blaming. Gray, who is black, died after being driven around in a police van in a case that drew wide attention to the issue of police treatment of minorities.

The print story, originally posted Monday, was changed that evening to remove the description of Gray's mother. In an editor's note, CNN said the reference was deleted "because it appeared out of context."

CNN had no comment on Tuesday about the change. Gray is described in both versions of the story as a symbol of the black community's distrust of police.

Dad with rockin' lifestyle rolls in and out of son's life

DEAR ABBY: When I was 19 and played bass in a rock band, I fell in love with a guy I'll call "Brian." He was three years older and also a musician. We had the best times together—we were young and wild without a care in the world.

But the years rolled on and we got older. After six years together, I got pregnant. I thought Brian would be thrilled, but he wasn't. It changed how I felt about him. I was heartbroken and lost respect for him.

I grew up fast, and put our son, "Ricky," first. Brian, on the other hand, has refused to give up his rock 'n' roll lifestyle. He shows up to see Ricky two or three times a month, but doesn't even look at him. I can't stand the way he ignores our son. Brian says I can't alter who and how he is. I say, if we mattered to him, he would change on his own. This leads to arguments.

Which is worse—having my son grow up with an absent father who's not "present" even when he's here? Or Ricky seeing us fight all the time, but leaving the option for Brian to be a part of his life? Or should I get my ex out of our lives for good, and risk resentment from Ricky because I moved on with our lives?

FULLY FORMED ADULT IN L.A.

DEAR FULLY FORMED: If Brian didn't care about Ricky, he wouldn't show up two or three times a month. What strikes me as sad, however, is that he apparently doesn't know how to relate to his son.

Rather than exclude him entirely, stop the arguing and suggest that he and Ricky would both get more out of the visitations if he enrolled in a parenting class for fathers. Tell him that for the sake of Ricky's emotional well-being, you would be glad to help facilitate it any way you can, including helping him to research some of them online.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 15-year-old son, "Todd," has started seeing a girl he goes to school with. "Winona" seems to be a nice girl from a good family. However, my son confided that her parents (mostly the mom) have started asking him all sorts of questions like, "I thought you were a good student. Why aren't you on the honor roll?" "Do you keep your room clean?" "Would you change for our daughter?"

Todd is a good kid and a good student (A's and B's mostly.) He has strong morals, lots of friends and is a typical teen. He isn't asking for that girl's hand in marriage! It's their first "boyfriend/girlfriend" relationship. They just like each other.

Is the mom out of line, or am I being too sensitive?

DUMBFOUNDED DAD IN ILLINOIS

DEAR DAD: Because this is her daughter's first boyfriend, the mother may ask these questions because she's protective, and it's her way of trying to get to know your son better. Please try not to take what's happening so seriously, because she'd probably ask the same questions if Prince Harry were seeing her precious daughter. That's how some mothers are—until enough boys become so uncomfortable that they disappear and the daughter finds it so embarrassing she puts a stop to it.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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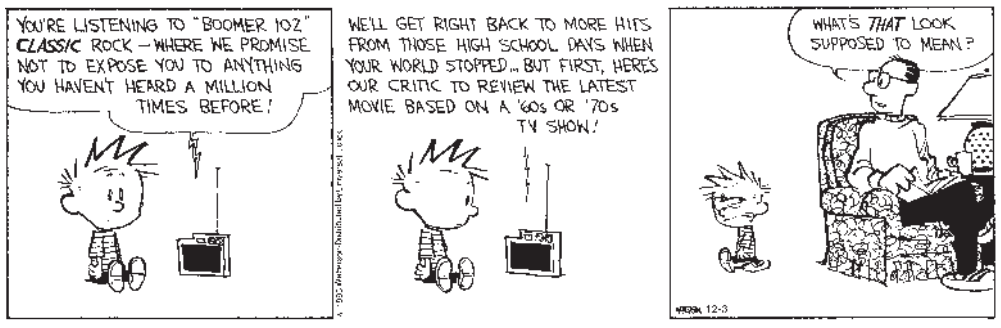
Pastimes

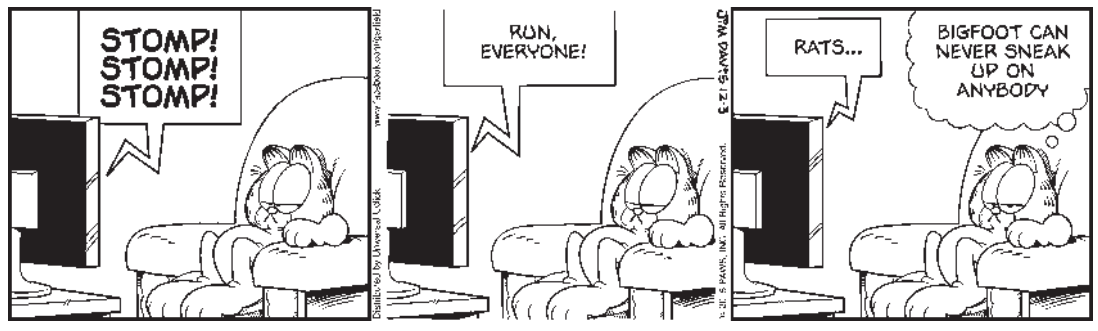
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOU'RE LISTENING TO "BOOMER 102" CLASSIC ROCK — WHERE WE PROMISE NOT TO EXPOSE YOU TO ANYTHING YOU HAVEN'T HEARD A MILLION TIMES BEFORE!
WE'LL GET RIGHT BACK TO MORE HITS FROM THOSE HIGH SCHOOL DAYS WHEN YOUR WORLD STOPPED... BUT FIRST, HERE'S OUR CRITIC TO REVIEW THE LATEST MOVIE BASED ON A '60s OR '70s TV SHOW!
WHAT'S THAT LOOK SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

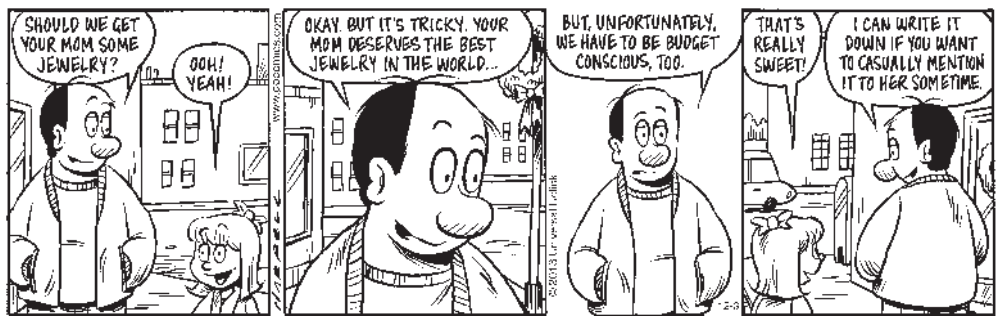
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



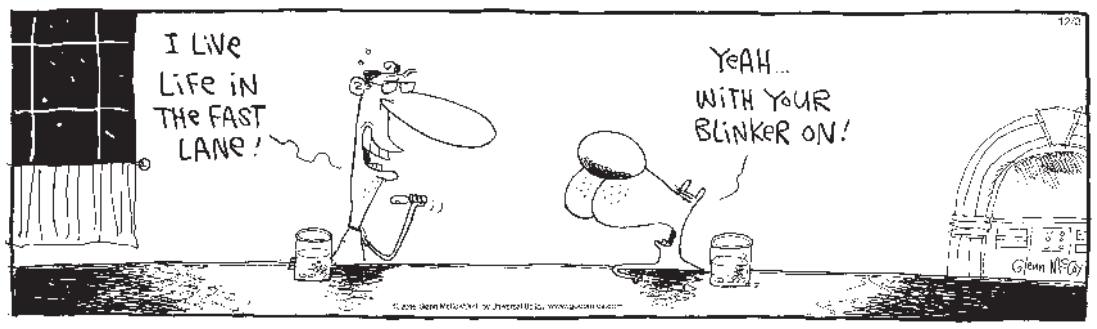
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SHOULD WE GET YOUR MOM SOME JEWELRY?
OOH! YEAH!
OKAY. BUT IT'S TRICKY. YOUR MOM DESERVES THE BEST JEWELRY IN THE WORLD...
BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE TO BE BUDGET CONSCIOUS, TOO.
THAT'S REALLY SWEET!
I CAN WRITE IT DOWN IF YOU WANT TO CASUALLY MENTION IT TO HER SOMETIME.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

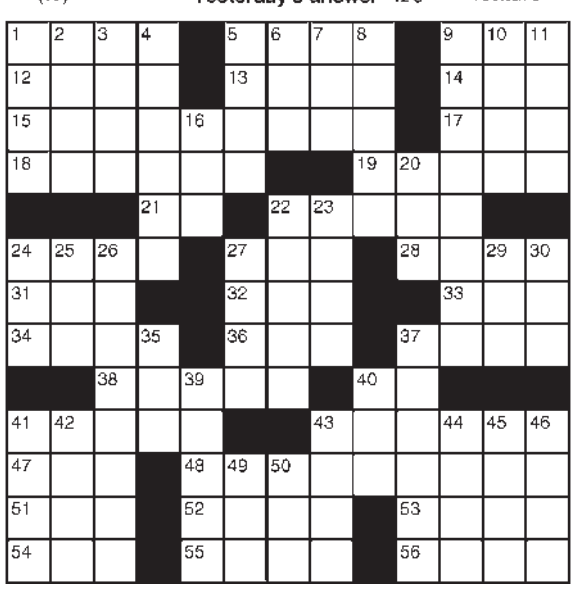
ACROSS
1 Quiet "Hey!"
5 Gasp for air
9 Anti-fraud agcy.
12 Mayberry kid
13 "Dancing Queen" band
14 "Eureka!"
15 Procedure that fixes a spare tire?
17 Frat's counterpart
18 "Blade" star Wesley
19 Doorway
21 "To Live and Die in —"
22 Pulsate
24 Green shade
27 Male sib
28 Tear canal
31 Rice's URL ender
32 Fan's cry
33 "Evita" narrator
34 Aliases
36 Wall St. launch
37 Similar (to)
38 "Psycho" motel
40 Personal item?
41 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
43 "— Restaurant" (Guthrie song)
47 Columbus sch.
48 Looney Tunes fowl
51 Efron of "Parkland"
52 Milky gem
53 "If I Were —" (Beyonce hit)
54 "Ick!"
55 Erotic
56 Buyer's delight

DOWN
1 Stock holders?
2 Whirled, as a top
3 California's — Valley
4 Shrine
5 Butter squares
6 — Dhabi
7 "Grimm" network
8 Giver's opposite
9 Easily earned cash, with "a"
10 Hammer-wielding deity
11 Hollywood's Grant
16 Pro vote
20 Silent "yes"
22 Golf hazards
23 Santa's greeting
24 Actress Aniston, to pals
25 Big fuss
26 Pure chance
27 Oozy cheese
29 Windy City, briefly
30 Perfect figure?
35 Baseball's Bando
37 Nike rival
39 Kerfuffles
40 Prince — Khan
41 Tiny, in realtor lingo
42 Genesis twin
43 Be — on the wall
44 Havana's land
45 Earth-friendly sci.
46 Scottish isle
49 Mimic
50 All-in-one printer feature

Solution time: 24 mins.

D	O	L	T	■	S	■	P	■	G	A	G	S
E	P	E	E	■	Q	U	O	■	R	U	M	P
J	U	N	E	B	U	G	S	■	A	G	E	E
A	S	S	U	R	F	■	F	D	M	U	N	D
■	■	■	P	I	A	■	R	■	M	S	■	■
P	A	M	■	M	L	B	■	M	Y	T	H	S
S	W	A	G	■	S	A	M	■	S	U	I	T
T	E	R	R	A	■	A	R	F	■	S	P	Y
■	■	■	C	O	C	O	■	M	L	A	■	■
H	O	H	O	H	O	■	A	U	D	I	T	S
O	L	A	V	■	M	A	Y	B	E	R	R	Y
M	A	N	F	■	P	R	O	■	I	O	O	N
E	N	D	S	■	H	E	R	■	E	N	T	S

Yesterday's answer 12-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amanda Seyfried, 30; Holly Marie Combs, 42; Brendan Fraser, 47; Julianne Moore, 55.

Happy Birthday: Learn from past experiences. You will be prone to taking on too much and have a tendency to be indulgent and overly emotional this year. Keep situations in perspective and deal with matters of concern quickly. Trust in your ability to assess, confirm and make things happen. Maximize your willpower and don't look back. Your numbers are 7, 12, 18, 21, 27, 33, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A disciplined approach to contracts, legal matters and your finances will enable you to engage in the luxuries you enjoy. A discussion with someone you love will lead to greater incentives and future plans. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Participate in industry events or take part in celebrations that mark a new beginning. Events and projects should be scheduled carefully to avoid creating a conflict with someone else's plans. A shopping trip will lift your spirits. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll face trouble if you make unrealistic promises. Problems with children, people from your past or someone you are in a partnership with will escalate if you overreact. Focus inward instead of on what others do or say. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Do what you can to spruce up your surroundings. Preparing for the festive season or getting involved in an event that is geared toward helping those less fortunate will result in great joy and new friendships. Express your thoughts and feelings. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Getting out and taking part in events and activities that allow you to share your ideas and plans will lead to an opportunity. Networking, meetings and updating your resume will help you set your sights on future prospects. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do your best to listen to any grievances being made before responding. Take time to weigh all the pros and cons and consider the possible outcomes based on the choices you've been given. Don't overreact. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Use your knowledge and your experience to your advantage. Someone will try to get the best of you, but as long as you are well-informed regarding situations that influence your life, you will come out on top. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Revisit old ideas and reconnect with people you have worked with in the past. The information you receive may not be accurate, but it will spark your interest and allow you to turn a questionable idea into a viable venture. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Travel or dealing with emotional situations or authority figures will not bode well. Stick close to home, and if you feel the need to make changes, concentrate on your living space or personal skills and appearance. Make love, not war. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Avoid anyone trying to put pressure or demands on you. Gravitate toward people who offer stability and security, not those making impulsive changes or inconsistent offers. Protect your health and your assets, and steer clear of fast-talking wheelers and dealers. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): When it comes to contracts and agreements, make sure all your paperwork is in order. Investing time and effort into the way you look and feel will bring excellent results as well as compliments from someone special. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep a clear mind when dealing with situations that have the potential to explode. Listen carefully, but don't get involved in something that might compromise your reputation or an important relationship. If you judge others, you will be judged as well. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, outgoing and sensitive. You are forthright and charismatic. *Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9	4	7		6	
						2	1	8
							7	
1				9				7
3			4		5			9
9				2				6
	9							
2	4	3						
	8		5	1	2			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	9	7	5	8	6	3	4	2
8	5	3	9	4	2	7	6	1
4	6	2	7	3	1	5	8	9
3	7	1	8	9	4	2	5	6
6	4	8	1	2	5	9	3	7
9	2	5	6	7	3	8	1	4
5	3	4	2	1	7	6	9	8
7	1	9	3	6	8	4	2	5
2	8	6	4	5	9	1	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CAROUSELS Solution: 12 letters

B	E	N	C	H	O	W	P	P	O	W	E	R	E	D
M	U	S	I	C	O	R	A	L	U	C	R	I	C	R
L	Q	T	D	O	I	I	S	M	A	P	E	A	H	A
D	I	N	D	A	D	N	I	N	I	N	L	M	A	G
N	T	E	F	F	A	R	I	G	F	A	E	U	N	O
U	N	R	A	W	R	M	N	S	C	F	P	S	D	N
O	A	A	S	O	A	I	E	I	S	I	H	E	E	S
R	H	P	R	L	V	L	G	S	K	G	A	M	L	R
O	O	S	S	L	K	O	G	R	H	U	N	E	I	E
G	R	T	O	R	L	N	A	A	I	R	T	N	E	G
Y	S	V	A	O	I	M	O	C	S	E	S	T	R	I
R	E	P	H	T	D	R	E	A	M	Ⓢ	C	N	S	T
R	S	T	A	N	I	T	N	I	A	Ⓟ	A	A	E	S
E	Y	E	A	P	O	N	I	E	S	Ⓘ	D	R	L	O
M	S	L	U	G	G	A	G	E	D	Ⓝ	A	R	B	P

© 2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 12/3

Amusement, Animals, Antique, Bench, Brand, Brass, Cars, Chandeliers, Circular, Dragons, Dreams, Elephants, Fair, Figures, Giraffe, Horses, Landmark, Luggage, Merry Go Round, Mirrors, Music, Mythological, Paid, Paint, Parents, Pig, Place, Planes, Ponies, Post, Powered, Revolving, Rotating, Seating, Sparkles, Spin, Swans, Tigers, Wooden

Yesterday's Answer: Birthday

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or **21** can be purchased online in time for the holidays at WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

2 Automotive Mechanic (Radiator): $6.05/hr. At least five years of experience, and specialty in radiator repair required. Email resume to grace@hanmisaipan.com.

---

(1) Office and Administrative Support Worker, (1) Electrician – $6.05/hr. Minimum of 5 years experience. Fax resume to 234-9796. Kimco Ent. Inc.

CLICK IT OR TICKET

DAY & NIGHT

Moving Off-Island

Family Garage Sale

This Saturday, December 5th from 6:30am to 11:00am. Located at Gualo Rai, three houses past the Gualo Rai basketball court going south. Look for signs. We will be selling lots and lots of new, old and used items such as: home décor, housewares, swing, walker, furniture, shoes, clothing and many more.

NOW LEASING

SECTION 8 VOUCHER ACCEPTED

IRONWOOD

NEW 2, 3, and 4 bedroom energy efficient apartments in Saipan.
Lower utility costs up to 70% through solar panels and solar hot water.
UNITS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING.
For pictures, amenities, and application information visit our website
www.ironwoodhousing.com
or call 670-233-4348. Applications are being accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., at Ironwood Community Center on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

American K&W Corporation
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) MASSEUSE
Salary $6.55 p/h.
Minimum 2 years experience.
Japanese and Chinese speaking
If interested, email
thomastchong@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
TROPICAL TRADING, LLC
(7) Commercial Cleaners
(4) Cooks
(2) Bakers
*Must be willing to work on holidays, weekend and split shifts.
*EAD, US citizens and Greencard holders are encouraged to apply.
Send resume/application to 670tropicaltrading@gmail.com or mail your resume to PO Box 10002 PMB 2502, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

RAND CONSTRUCTION
is in need of the following:

- (1) Operation Manager
- (2) Construction Supervisor
- (3) Carpenter
- (3) Mason
- (1) Plumber
- (1) Electrician
- (1) Welder
- (3) Commercial Cleaner

Submit bio-data/resume to:
jewel.spicus@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

- Must have at least 5 years work experience in the Telecommunications trade
- Knowledge and expertise in analyzing engineering computer, RF systems, and other iDEN telecom related equipment to maintain and improve our current telecommunications system.
- Must have good communication skills.

Interested applicants can send resume to
Choice Radio, Inc.
P.O. Box 501750 Saipan, MP 96950

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(2) Specialized Truck Driver

High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than December 11, 2015.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

TAGA
SPORTS
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015
FREE
JENNY FROM THE BLOCK
Q&A: WHAT IS CROSSFIT?
LITTLE LEAGUE = BIG HEARTS
SPORTS GROUPS COME TO THE RESCUE
A LANDLUBBER TAKES TO CNMI WATERS
7 TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER BACK-TO SCHOOL
BEN BABAUTA'S OTHER KIND OF WINNING
PLUS BUY A BICYCLE BIKE TO WORK FAVORITE TRAILS
JULY 2013

TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!

Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports,* the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!

Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA *Sports*. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!

To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

WHATZIT Solution: A small fish in a big pond

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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76ers top Lakers for 1st win of season, snap 28-game skid

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Kobe Bryant breezed through the Philadelphia 76ers locker room and said to no one in particular, "keep it going, guys."

His homecoming game spoiled, Bryant said one final goodbye to Philly, which is winless no more.

The 76ers said good riddance to the longest losing streak in major U.S. professional sports—winless in 28 games dating to last season. And 0 for 18 to begin this one.

No more.

With the spotlight on Bryant during the final game of his career in his hometown, the Sixers stole the show and defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 103-91 on Tuesday night for their first victory of the season.

The Sixers remain tied for the worst start in NBA history with the 2009-10 New Jersey Nets, who also opened 0-18.

It was the first win for the Sixers since March 25 at Denver.

"Finally," forward Nerlens Noel said.

Coach Brett Brown's team has long languished at the bottom of the NBA standings and reeled off two separate losing streaks of at least 26 games in his three seasons.

For one night, in front of a sellout crowd of 20,510 that came to cheer Bryant, the streaks hardly mattered.

"I'm pleased for the city," Brown said. "We don't want this streak continuing."

Hours earlier, Bryant felt the love in Philadelphia as soon as he entered the arena.

He took selfies with fans who might never see him play again, and his presence injected a playoff atmosphere into a city that has lost much of its passion in NBA basketball.

With a packed crowd standing and roaring in appreciation, Bryant was lauded like a hometown hero, not the "Hometown Zero" he was once labeled in Philadelphia's tabloids.

Bryant, who will end his 20-year career this season, opened the first leg of his farewell tour in his hometown and was feted with the kind of reverence and gratitude normally reserved for a Sixers great.

"I wasn't expecting that type of reaction, ovation," he said. "Deeply appreciative beyond belief. It was really, really special."

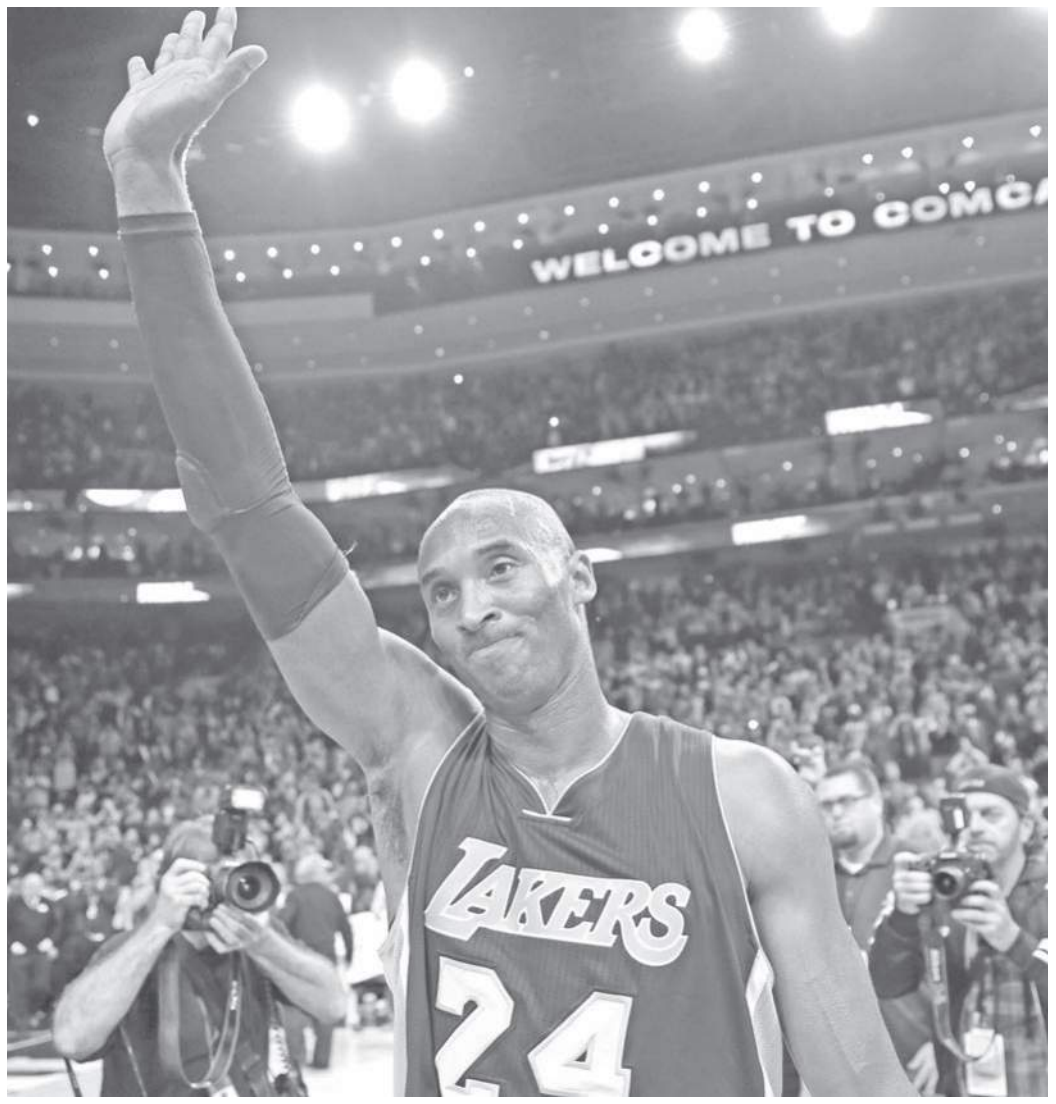
Playing with the shot selection of a pickup artist, Bryant tried to deliver a special performance in his finale.

He buried a step-back 3-pointer off the opening tip.

He hit another 3 on the next possession.

Bryant made it 3 for 3 and had the Philly crowd chanting "M-V-P!" as he turned back the clock to his championship form.

"It was a little spurt of old-school Kobe," Noel said.



AP
Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant waves to the crowd after an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015, in Philadelphia.

Bryant said he could tell the start made the Sixers a little starstruck—most were babies when he started his career.

"I could sense they were like 'I really don't want to touch him.' ... 'Is this going to be an 81 type of situation?'" Bryant said. "I'm just playing possum because I know my legs ain't going to carry this energy for 48 minutes."

Bryant scored 20 points on 7-of-26 shooting and made four 3s.

By the fourth quarter, the Philly fans had turned their attention toward the home team, chanting "Beat L.A.!" when beleaguered rookie Jahlil Okafor made a layup for a 94-80 lead.

Okafor, the No. 3 overall pick out of Duke, has been attached to a string of off-court incidents that included reckless driving and a fight in Boston. Brown said Okafor, who has apologized for his recent decisions, will likely soon be accompanied by team security on public outings.

Bryant said he would simply tell the 19-year-old rookie to stay focused on basketball.

The Sixers stayed focused and finally finished the job after taking an 80-75 lead into the fourth.

The 76ers had led after three quarters three other times this season: Nov. 21 at Miami (led 74-67, lost 96-91), Nov. 25 at Boston (led 62-57, lost 84-80) and Nov. 29 at Memphis (led 67-64, lost 92-84), according to STATS.

Robert Covington scored 23 points and Jerami Grant and Noel had 14 for the Sixers.

The win belonged to Philadelphia. The night belonged to Bryant.

Wizards 97, Cavaliers 85

In Cleveland, John Wall scored a season-high 35 points as Washington handed Cleveland its first home loss of the season.

The Wizards, who never trailed, scored the first 10 points of the game and went on a 9-0 run to begin the second half in snapping a four-game losing streak.

LeBron James had 24 points, but the Cavaliers lost for the first time in 10 games this season at Quicken Loans Arena.

Wall was 14 of 24 from the field and had 10 assists. Bradley Beal scored 18 and Marcin Gortat added 15 points with 11 rebounds for the Wizards.

Grizzlies 113, Pelicans 104

In New Orleans, Marc Gasol scored a career-high 38 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as Memphis defeated New Orleans.

The Pelicans lost despite the return of starting guard Tyreke Evans and top reserve Norris Cole. Evans had 20 points and 10 assists, but that wasn't enough to overcome a Grizzlies squad that scored 52 points in the paint and missed only one of 26 free throws.

Gasol was 11 of 22 from the field and made all 16 of his foul shots. Zach Randolph added 14 points, while Courtney Lee and Matt Barnes scored 13 each.

Anthony Davis had 17 points, 14 rebounds and career high-tying nine blocked shots for the Pelicans. But he struggled with his shooting, going 4 of 15 from the field and 8 of 13 on free throws.

Ryan Anderson scored 16 for New Orleans, which has lost three straight.

Magic 96, Timberwolves 93

In Minneapolis, Nikola Vucevic had 18 points and 12 rebounds as Orlando topped Minnesota for its fourth straight victory.

Elfrid Payton had 14 points and eight rebounds, and Andrew Nicholson scored 15 for the Magic, who have won four straight for the first time since December 2012.

Andrew Wiggins scored 27 points for the Timberwolves, but missed a free throw with 5.6 seconds to play that would have tied the game. Minnesota shot just 37.7 percent and fell to 2-7 at home this season.

The Magic led by as many as 17 in the third quarter. Minnesota had it tied with 4:30 to play, but went 3:40 without a bucket late in the fourth.

Mavericks 115, Trail Blazers 112, OT

In Portland, Oregon, Deron Williams had a season-high 30 points as Dallas won 115-112 in overtime in Wesley Matthews' first trip back to Portland since signing with the Mavericks as a free agent.

Dirk Nowitzki added 28 points and Matthews finished with 18 points in his return as the Mavs snapped a four-game losing streak on the road.

Matthews hit consecutive 3-pointers to pull the Mavericks to 89-85 as Dallas closed in on Portland in regulation. Nowitzki's 3-pointer narrowed it to 96-94 before his tip shot tied it, and Damian Lillard missed a 3 at the buzzer to send the game into overtime.

Nets 94, Suns 91

In New York, Brook Lopez scored 23 points as Brooklyn beat Phoenix for its fourth consecutive win at home.

Brooklyn reserves Shane Larkin and Wayne Ellington each had 11 points and both made a basket in the brief flurry that helped the Nets win consecutive games for the first time this season. Jarrett Jack also scored 11 and added eight assists.

Brandon Knight scored 26 points and Eric Bledsoe had 17 for the Suns, who had a long dry spell from the field in the fourth quarter after leading by nine earlier in the period. They botched their final possession trailing by three with 4 seconds remaining.

The Suns fell to 1-1 on their six-game road trip.

LeBron on Kobe: 'I wanted to be just like him'

CLEVELAND (AP)—When he was a kid, LeBron James looked up on his bedroom wall where Kobe Bryant hung in reverence.

"I wanted to be just like him, man," James said Tuesday.

Two days after Bryant announced he would retire after this season, James expressed his gratitude and love for the U.S. Olympic teammate who pushed him to greatness and will leave the NBA as one of its most celebrated players.

Following Cleveland's morning shoot-around before playing Washington, James spent several minutes reflecting on Bryant's career and the impact he had on the Cavaliers star.

"We've always competed against one another and we always wanted to dethrone each other," James said. "But we always had that mutual respect because we knew how much we put into the game. I've always voiced my opinion about Kobe, how great Kobe is, and obviously there will never be another one of him in our league. Ever."

James spent much of his interview session praising Bryant, who announced Sunday that his 20th NBA season will be his last. Bryant begins his farewell tour Tuesday night in Philadelphia, the city where his basketball journey began.

As Bryant was taking his first steps in what would become a stellar career, James was in Akron, Ohio, doing everything he could to mimic a player with unrivaled offensive skills.

"In high school I wore a nappy afro because of Kobe Bryant," James said. "I always said my inspiration came from Jordan, but I always thought Jordan was so out of this world that I could never get there. Kobe was someone that I just always kind of wanted to be like and play like. And then, just being a competitor, he took me to that next level, and understanding how important competition is and just have a willingness to never die."

James rattled off some of Bryant's signature games and moves: his 81-point game in 2006, a game-winning shot against Phoenix, a tip dunk against Indiana, a behind-the-back, 360-degree dunk against Denver. James can replay all of them in his mind, and he's struggling with the idea that he'll never get to see Bryant add to that list.

"To know that it's coming to an end is truly sad for me," he said.

During his offseason workouts, James said the thought of Bryant being in a gym somewhere else, perfecting his crossover or that unstoppable fade-away jumper, pushed him to do more.

"I knew I had to be better because of Kobe Bryant," he said. "I knew he was in the gym and I knew he was working on his game. And I knew he was great. So every day that I didn't want to work out or every day I felt like I couldn't give more, I always thought of Kobe. I knew that he was getting better and I was like, 'Man, if you take a day off, he's going to take advantage of it. You cannot take a day off. You cannot take a day off.'

"And I used him for my motivation throughout my career because I always knew that he was working on something. So, that part will be missed a little bit."

James does have a single regret when it comes to Bryant. It still stings him that he couldn't get the Cavaliers to the 2009 NBA Finals for a matchup with Bryant, a showdown craved by hoop fans everywhere. One of them has played in the finals since 2007, but not once against each other.

"I know the world wanted to see it," James said. "I wanted it; we wanted it. He held up his end and I didn't hold up my end, and I hate that. I hate that that didn't happen."

Source: Red Sox agree to 7-year, $217M deal with Price

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Red Sox and AL Cy Young runner-up David Price have agreed to terms on a seven-year free-agent deal worth $217 million, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday night because the deal—the largest ever for a pitcher—is pending a physical. It is expected to be announced on Friday, the person told the AP.

A left-hander who was the AL's top pitcher in 2012 and the runner-up twice in seven full major league seasons, Price has a 3.09 ERA with 1,372 strikeouts and 104 wins. He went 18-5 with a 2.45 ERA in 2015, striking out 225.

Choosing the Red Sox reunites Price with president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski, who until this August was the Detroit Tigers' general manager. Dombrowski has had a hand in all three of Price's moves the past two years.

AP

In this Friday, Oct. 23, 2015 file photo, Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher David Price throws against the Kansas City Royals during the first inning in Game 6 of baseball's American League Championship Series in Kansas City, Mo.

After spending his entire career in Tampa Bay, Price was acquired by Detroit at the 2014 trade deadline. A year later, the Tigers traded him to the Blue Jays at the July 31 non-waiver deadline and Price helped Toronto reach the playoffs for the first time since 1993.

Now he will try to help turn around a team that has finished last in the AL East in three of the last four seasons. (The Red Sox won the World Series in 2013.) On its way to a 78-84, last-place finish in 2015, Boston brought in Dombrowski and he quickly went to work rebuilding the once-proud ballclub.

Dombrowski traded a package of prospects to San Diego for closer Craig Kimbrel last month.

And this week he got someone Kimbrel can save games for.

Price bolsters a rotation that has lacked an ace since the Red Sox balked at the asking price for Jon Lester, who signed a six-year, $155 million deal with the Chicago Cubs. Twelve different pitchers started at least one game for the Red Sox in 2015.

Price joins a rotation that, barring injuries and trades, is expected to include Wade Miley, Rick Porcello, Eduardo Rodriguez and Clay Buchholz. Joe Kelly, Steven Wright and Henry Owens could bolster the bullpen, fill in as starters or serve as trade bait.

Dodgers welcome Dave Roberts back as manager

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dave Roberts was welcomed back to the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday as the first minority manager in franchise history.

"This is my dream job," he said during a news conference at Dodger Stadium attended by first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, former manager Tom Lasorda, and Dodger greats Don Newcombe and Maury Wills.

Co-owner Magic Johnson handed Roberts a No. 30 jersey that he hastily buttoned up over his blue dress shirt and blue-and-white striped tie. Roberts took his new Dodger hat and bent the brim before donning it.

Roberts said he was so focused on landing the job that he didn't realize the magnitude of being the club's first minority manager. His father is black and his mother is Japanese.

"There's a lot of people that paved the way for me to ultimately have this opportunity," he said. "That isn't taken lightly."

Asked about the lack of minorities managing in baseball, Roberts said, "I have no idea. I'm very, very fortunate that it's me."

The 43-year-old former center fielder for the Dodgers was born in Okinawa, Japan, where his father was based with the Marines.

Roberts comes from the rival San Diego Padres, where he was bench coach the last two seasons.

He takes over a team that won three consecutive NL West titles under Don Mattingly, who mutually parted ways with the team last month and a week later became manager of the Miami Marlins. The Dodgers haven't won a World Series since 1988 despite having baseball's highest payroll last season.

"I don't succumb to pressure," Roberts said. "People should have expectations and goals. The goal is to be great."

The Dodgers lost 3-2 to the New York Mets in a decisive Game 5 of the NL Division Series this year, having made the postseason in three straight years for the first time in franchise history.

"We are highly confident that he is going to play a significant role in us shaping a culture of sustained success here," said Andrew Friedman, president of baseball operations.

Friedman said the front office conducted an "exhaustive search" involving nine candidates. None of them bowled over Friedman, general manager Farhan Zaidi and the team's ownership as much as the ebullient Roberts.

"After the first round interview it was almost like he had our answer key to the answers we would like to hear," Friedman said. "It was incredibly impressive. To a man, everyone was blown away by who he is and what he represents. We're thrilled with the result."

Zaidi added, "There's no way Dave walked out of that interview not thinking, 'I totally nailed that' because that's how we all felt."

Friedman didn't give a direct answer when asked about speculation that Gabe Kapler was his first choice while ownership preferred Roberts. He said Kapler, another former major leaguer who is the team's director of player development, "definitely will be" part of the club next season. Kapler played with Tampa Bay when Friedman was that club's GM.

Roberts has already begun the process of getting to know the players, having talked with about 15 of them so far. He's set to spend Sunday with ace Clayton Kershaw. He has yet to speak with outfielder Yasiel Puig, who sustained minor injuries in a scuffle at a Miami bar last week.

Last Sunday, Roberts received a welcoming call from Hall of Fame broadcaster Vin Scully, who turned 88 that day. Scully has indicated 2016 will be his final year in the booth.

"That was a big moment for me," Roberts said. "It was very humbling."

After the news conference, Roberts warmly greeted Newcombe, grasping the 89-year-old former pitching great's head in his hands and speaking to him. Newcombe later passed out and was taken by ambulance to a hospital for further examination.

Roberts started for the Dodgers from 2002-04. Gonzalez was on opposing teams back then and remembered Roberts' best qualities from his playing days.

"His passion, his attention to detail, his work ethic, the way he hustled and played hard every day," Gonzalez said. "He led by example."

Roberts played college baseball at UCLA after growing up in the San Diego area.

"This was a long process and for me to have an opportunity to put the Dodger uniform on again, it's come full circle," he said. "I look at it as a responsibility to kind of continue forward and do things the right way."

Roberts is perhaps best known for his stolen base in the 2004 AL playoffs that sparked the Red Sox to an elusive World Series championship.

In the AL Championship Series, Boston was three outs from being swept by the New York Yankees. Roberts pinch-ran after Kevin Millar drew a leadoff walk from Mariano Rivera. Roberts stole second and scored on Bill Mueller's single.

Boston won 6-4 in 12 innings, then became the first team in major league history to overcome a 3-0 deficit and win a postseason series. Roberts did not play as the Red Sox swept St. Louis for their first championship since 1918, but will always be beloved in Boston because of that one play.

Roberts retired in 2008 after playing 10 years in Cleveland, Boston, San Diego and San Francisco besides Los Angeles. He was a career .266 hitter with 243 steals.

In 2010, he survived a bout with Hodgkin's lymphoma.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers Dave Roberts is officially introduced as the first minority manager in franchise history at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015.

Byung Ho Park agrees to $12M, 4-year deal with Twins

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Byung Ho Park is making the move from South Korea to Minnesota to play for the Twins, and he's bringing his big bat with him.

Park agreed Tuesday to a $12 million, four-year contract with the Twins, who are looking to add power to their lineup around promising youngster Miguel Sano and veterans Trevor Plouffe and Brian Dozier.

The 29-year-old will get $2.75 million in each of the next two seasons and $3 million each in 2018 and '19. The Twins have a $6.5 million option for 2020 with a $500,000 buyout.

On Nov. 9, Minnesota won the right to negotiate with Park for 30 days by placing a high bid of $12.85 million after he was posted by the Nexen Heroes under Major League Baseball's agreement with the Korea Baseball Organization. The money was due only if Park signed with the Twins.

Park hit .343 with 53 homers and 146 RBIs this year. He has a .281 average and 210 homers and won two MVPs in parts of nine seasons in Korea.

Exactly how those numbers will translate against the better pitching he will face in the United States remains to be seen.

With Joe Mauer entrenched as the everyday first baseman, the Twins will likely use Park as a designated hitter most of the time. The Twins have said they plan to use Sano, who was primarily the DH during his rookie season, in the outfield next year.

This is the second time the Twins have landed a player by winning the right to negotiate with him through a posting fee. They signed Japanese infielder Tsuyoshi Nishioka in 2010, but he hit just .215 in 71 career games before going back to Japan.

Delayed start for '16 SBL season

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Baseball League coordinator Tony Rogolifoi said the opening of the 2016 season would be delayed due to the unavailability of the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Rogolifoi told *Saipan Tribune* in a one-on-one interview yesterday that he informed representatives of the eight participating teams next season that the lights of the Tan Ko field have not yet been replaced.

"I can't guarantee an exact date yet but I assured everyone that there will be a league next year. There will only be a one or two month delay. I just informed them of the current situation," said Rogolifoi

"The delay is not because of the condition of the field. The baseball field is fine and playable but the lights are either broken or got re-aligned by the strong winds," added Rogolifoi, who is also the Northern Marianas Sports Association's executive director.

He said that it is only a matter of time before replacement and adjustment of the lights are done at the Tan Ko field.

"So I just told them to start practicing and to get in shape in time for the season. I don't know when are they going to finish with the repairs but we have to wait. Right now, we can't do anything about it so we're just going to deal with it," said Rogolifoi.

The Brewers will be returning to defend their crown with the Falcons, the runners-up last season, aiming to derail their bid of prolonging their reign to a fourth consecutive year.

The Blue Jays (formerly the Jets), the North Starz, and a team supported by Best Sunshine International, Ltd. are the other confirmed squads.

The Red Sox of CNMI Junior All-Star team coach Bernard Cabrera, Akkari (Carolinian word that means beat them up), and the Yankees, which would field a younger lineup, are still not sure of their participation in the 2016 season.

Rogolifoi is advising all teams, either sure of joining or are still tentative, to secure their uniforms and equipment. "The fee remains $1,000 and they should also secure their sponsors."

JON PEREZ

The Saipan Baseball League's 2016 season will be delayed since the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field still cannot host night games after the lights were damaged by several typhoons.

Espinosa gets Finals MVP

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mike Espinosa took home the Finals MVP award after towing Judith's Hot Boys to an 82-74 title win against GMI Market in the U18 division of the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League last Sunday night at the San Antonio court.

Espinosa scored a team-high 22 points in the finale, providing Judith's stability in the homestretch to thwart a GMI Market late comeback. Espinosa fired 6 of Judith's last 10 points in the fourth quarter with his putback off his own miss giving his team more breathing room, 76-70, after GMI Market moved within 4. Espinosa made the important basket with the 24-second shot clock almost down.

The Judith's Hot Boys forward managed to lead scores on his team despite nailing only one basket in the first period. He made up for his poor start in the second quarter, drilling 7 points to help Judith's take a double-digit spread by halftime, 43-33. Judith's advantage ballooned to as much as 19 in the third, 59-42, with Espinosa adding 6 more points and the Finals MVP continued to deliver in the payoff canto to save his team from collapsing after wasting a twin-digit spread.

Espinosa received the Finals MVP trophy from league supporter and Rep. Anthony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) during the brief awards ceremony, while trophies were also awarded to the Mythical Five. The elite group was composed of GMI Market's Jethro Cruz and June Alipio, the Sonics' Jun Fidelino, Ferrera Builders' Chico Bondoc, and Judith's Hot Boys' Mike Arciaga.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Judith's Hot Boys' Mike Espinosa, center, is fouled by GMI Market's Ignacio Borja, right, during the third quarter of their title game in the U18 division of the San Antonio caging last Sunday at the San Antonio court.

NMI bets upbeat a day before PXC fight

CNMI fighters Josh "Chaos" Duenas and cousins Roman "Sonic Boom" and Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez are upbeat for their respective undercard bouts in tomorrow's Pacific Xtreme Combat 50 at the University of Guam Calvo Fieldhouse.

Duenas is hoping to end his winless streak in the PXC when he faces New Zealand's Kai Cara-France in a flyweight bout, Roman will take on another Kiwi in Mark Abelardo in the featherweight division while Shane Alvarez and Japan's Yutaro Muramoto face off in a bantamweight match.

Trench Tech promoter Cuki Alvarez and Ken "Kamikazi" Tanzawa will be the cornermen of the three and Frank "The Crank" Camacho, who will clash with Tyrone "Bones" Jones for the vacant PXC lightweight belt in one of the two title bouts.

Yusuke Yachi of Japan will defend his PXC featherweight title against Alex Volkanovski in the semi main event.

Cuki Alvarez said he expects all four fighters to make the weight in today's weigh in at Cars Plus in Maite.

"[They are] on point. All of them have less than 10 lbs to cut. At this point, that is good. The [last] days are crunch time. They will drop the last few pounds before the fight," added Cuki Alvarez. ***(Jon Perez)***

NMIVA

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should work closely with [the Marianas Visitors Authority] to really drive sports tourism in the NMI," added Peterka.

NMSA president Mike White, in a story that came out in the *Saipan Tribune*, had asked officials of three sports associations—baseball, golf, and volleyball—to discuss the possibility of hosting a WUC event.

"We have a lot of white sand beaches good for beach volleyball. So I would like to ask that NMIVA also look into the prospect of bringing the games here on Saipan," White told NMIVA representative Toni Yamada during a recent NMSA meeting.

Peterka said NMIVA is ready to get organized if ever Saipan will earn a chance to host a WUC in beach volleyball.

"We look forward to the possibility of hosting a WUC event and I believe strongly that NMIVA is ready to step up to this possibility," Peterka said.

She added NMIVA has shown in the past that they are capable of hosting events consistently behind a core group of volunteers who lend their time and energy.

"We've become really capable in terms of being able to host events consistently. We have a good core volunteer group who each have taken on roles consistently and it works well for us," said Peterka.

The Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival, which will have its 24th edition next year, is one of the events that NMIVA helped organize where Beijing Olympic gold medalist Phil Dalhausser and other pros around the world participated in.

Peterka said hosting a WUC for beach volleyball would be a huge plus for the volleyball community, specially beach volleyball.

"It would be great to see all the young talent from all over the world here with us in the CNMI. It would really boost our local level of interest and quality of play too," she added.

The WUC is part of the International University Sports Federation's program where 28 sports are played either in every two or four years involving college age athletes from 17 to 28 years old.

Porto City in Portugal hosted the last WUC in beach volleyball where 64 male and 52 female players from 22 countries, and 44 game officials took part.

The next WUC in beach volleyball, the eighth edition, is set in Estonia's Southwestern city of Parnu from July 13 to 17 in 2016.

FISU is requiring hosts of a WUC beach volleyball event to have one main stadium that has a seating capacity of 1,500 for spectators, 150 (roofed) for VIPs, and 25 for the media; a secondary stadium should accommodate 500 spectators, 10 VIPs, and 10 members of the press; six secondary courts that can have 50 to 150 spectators and five reporters; and two warm up courts.

SIS

From Page 28

in going for spikes and having some miscommunication, as on a couple of occasions two players banged into each other while chasing the ball.

The Eagles sued for time with their season on the line, however when the game resumed Lim scored an ace and Quintin Ramsey made another drop to the left side to move SIS within two points of winning a finals berth.

A Lizama wide spike that went past the backline kept GCA's hopes alive, but the SIS junior redeemed himself quickly as he went for another kill and this time it dropped inside with Libut and Trinidad failing to block the shot. Ramsey then served for the match point and scored an ace, as his shot fell in front of three GCA defenders, who had yet to establish their positions at the backline.

Meanwhile, results of the other semis matches in the boys and girls high school divisions were unavailable at press time. MCS 1 and SIS 2 dueled for the upper bracket semis at the Geckos turf yesterday with the winner facing SIS 1 in today's finale in the boys high school category. In the girls high school division, SIS 1 will take on the victor in the GCA-MCS 1 semis showdown in Friday's title match.

MJD/GPPC

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23 points for GMJ/IKKI, which dropped to a 5-1 record.

Meanwhile, Jun Tabora won a shootout against his brother Dante after the former recorded his biggest output in the season against the former's 26 markers.

The siblings were neck-and-neck in the first period with Jun hitting 10 points versus Dante's 8. However, Dante's squad managed to get the upper hand at the end of the first period, 27-21, with Joel Fernandez also finding his mark early for Erika's/Ferrera, logging 9 markers.

The Taboras show continued in the second quarter and this time Jun doubled up his brother, 14-6, and helped MJD/GPPC grabbed the driver's seat by halftime, 42-37.

At the start of the second half, Jun slowed down a bit, posting only two field goals, but he still matched Dante's production (8), as MJD/GPPC kept the lead, 64-55, entering the final canto.

In the fourth frame, Dante struggled, converting only two baskets, while Jun finished strong, firing 11 more points to counter the hot shooting of Rodney Catalla. Catalla knocked in three triples in the fourth quarter and scored 15 of his 23 points in that period to threaten MJD/GPPC, but timely baskets from Jun and clutch free throws from Mungcal saved the day for the division leader.

Nov. 25 Game

MJD/GPPC 85 – Tabora 37, Ocampo 14, Mungcal 9, Alipio 9, Parcutilo 7, De Guzman 6, Deocares 3, Sampang 2.

GMJ/IKKI 82 – Binuya 23, Pantaleon 21, Montano 19, Dizon 10, Galulu 5, Montes 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-14, 35-32, 64-49, 85-82.

Nov. 28 Game

MJD/GPPC 83 – Tabora 43, Mungcal 10, Ocampo 9, De Guzman 8, Parcutilo 6, Alipio 6, Sampang 1.

Erika's/Ferrera 80 – Tabora 26, Catalla 23, Fernandez 15, De Belen 9, Villarin 7.

Scoring by quarters: 21-27, 42-37, 64-55, 83-80.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	11	7	.611	—
Boston	10	8	.556	1
New York	8	10	.444	3
Brooklyn	5	13	.278	6
Philadelphia	1	18	.053	10½
Southeast Division				
Miami	10	6	.625	—
Atlanta	12	8	.600	—
Charlotte	10	7	.588	½
Orlando	10	8	.556	1
Washington	7	8	.467	2½
Central Division				
Cleveland	13	5	.722	—
Indiana	11	5	.688	1
Chicago	10	5	.667	1½
Detroit	9	9	.500	4
Milwaukee	7	11	.389	6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	14	4	.778	—
Memphis	11	8	.579	3½
Dallas	11	8	.579	3½
Houston	7	11	.389	7
New Orleans	4	14	.222	10
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	11	7	.611	—
Utah	8	8	.500	2
Minnesota	8	10	.444	3
Portland	7	12	.368	4½
Denver	6	12	.333	5
Pacific Division				
Golden State	19	0	1.000	—
L.A. Clippers	10	8	.556	8½
Phoenix	8	10	.444	10½
Sacramento	7	12	.368	12
L.A. Lakers	2	15	.118	16

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2015 NMIFA Fall Youth Festival

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

U8 players battle for possession during their game in the 2015 NMIFA Fall Youth Festival last Nov. 14 at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Kanoa, left, and Paire U10 players fight for the ball.

Shirley's and MP United players exchange high-fives after their U8 game.

Paire, left, and Kanoa players show sportsmanship after their U10 match.

A Matansa U12 player kicks the ball, while an MP United defender steps into the play.

Matansa, in yellow uniforms, and Tan Holdings U8 players chase the ball.

A Paire coach huddles with her players.

Paire and MP United players in action near the penalty area.

An MP United player kicks the ball during their U10 game against MP United.

76ers top Lakers for 1st win of season, snap 28-game skid

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Espinosa gets Finals MVP

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NMIVA, others must work hard to bring WUC event

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association said a united front is needed if ever the CNMI gets a chance to host the World University Championships beach volleyball event on Saipan in the future.

This was what NMIVA president Laurie Peterka told *Saipan Tribune* in an exclusive interview, adding that the CNMI should also capitalize in promoting sports tourism.

"I strongly believe that [the Northern Marianas Sports Association] and its members

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JON PEREZ

Pros from Japan and the United States saw action in this year's Micronesian Cup at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association welcomed the possibility of hosting another international beach volleyball event, the World University Championships, on Saipan.

SIS enters v-ball finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School barged into the finals of both the boys and girls high school divisions of the 2015-2016 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Daniel Lim tips the ball in against the defense of Grace Christian Academy's Josiah Trinidad, left, and Jonathan Libut during the first set of their semis game in the high school division of the COPSA volleyball league yesterday at the Whispering Palms court.

SIS 1 made it to the finals of the boys high school contest after slipping past Grace Christian Academy in thrilling three-set semis match, 16-25, 25-14, 15-7, yesterday at the Whispering Palms hard court. Also played at Whispering Palms's turf was the upper bracket Final Four pairing between SIS 1 and Mt. Carmel School 2 with the Lady Geckos sweeping their foes, 25-14, 25-16.

While SIS 1 only took two sets to eliminate MCS and advance to this Friday's championship game in the girls high school division, the former's boys team needed to bounce back from an opening set loss to avoid the upset axe of GCA.

The Eagles won the first set after building an early 8-1 lead. Jonathan Libut gave GCA a good start, as he scored on a couple of thunderous spikes, while Josiah Trinidad and Billy Hinson held their own against SIS spikers, and Mark Versoza and Matthew Mamaril did a good job receiving the Geckos serves.

SIS, which tried to counter attack against GCA in the opening set, but its spikes were either wide or were blocked by its foes, had to call timeouts three times in the first set to stop the Eagles with the last one made when GCA was pulling away, 22-11. The Geckos then managed to win the next exchange, 7-1 to move within 7, 16-23, but GCA scored two straight points after that off Shun Umezawa's dink and Libut's spike to end the first set.

In the second set, SIS started to get into its rhythm, particularly Daniel Lim, who hit kills one after another. He teamed up with Luther Lizama in providing the Geckos a strong presence in the net, while the rest of their teammates were also quick on their feet returning every shot GCA made.

Libut and company tried to match SIS' powerful kills in the second set, but often times the GCA crew's shots were too strong, while the Geckos had good ball placements, dropping the leather to unguarded spots. Another wide kill from Libut landed past the backline and gave SIS its biggest lead, 16-6, in the second set. GCA then sliced the deficit to 4, 14-20, after SIS committed some wild shots, but that was the closest the Eagles could get, as the Geckos closed out the set with a 5-0 run to keep their finals hopes alive. Lizama scored three of those points with his block on Mamaril moving SIS to a game point and his kill that dropped to the right side of the GCA court wrapping up the second set.

The Geckos then rode on its momentum in the second set to take an 11-6 advantage in the deciding third set. Again, SIS had good eyes spotting loopholes on GCA's defense with Lim and Lizama alternately hitting kills for the Geckos and their teammates running after those free balls. GCA, on the other hand, had the same problems, showing too much eagerness

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MJD/GPPC extends streak to six

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MJD/GPPC notched back-to-back victories last week in the masters division of the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League to stretch its winning run to six.

MJD/GPPC first defeated the then unbeaten GMJ/IKKI Wholesale, 85-82, last Nov. 25 at the San Antonio court before downing Erika's Catering/Ferrera Builders last Saturday, 83-80, for a 6-0 record and solo lead in the division.

Jun Tabora top-scored for MJD/GPPA in both wins, as he registered 37 against GMJ/IKKI and 43 versus Erika's/Ferrera.

Against GMJ/IKKI, Tabora led MJD/GPPC's breakaway in the third quarter, scoring 9 of the team's first 12 points to turn a slim 35-32 halftime advantage to a 64-49 lead. Tabora picked up where he left off, adding 8 more points in the fourth canto to foil GMJ/IKKI's comeback bid, while five of his teammates also contributed in the final frame, making at least one field goal apiece.

Alex Ocampo backed up Tabora with his 14 points, while Randy Mungcal, Jun Alipio, Jojo Parcutilo, and Jorge De Guzman combined for 31 markers. Marlon Binuya had

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MJD/GPPC's Jorge De Guzman loses his balance as he is fouled by Erika's Catering/Ferrera Builders' Dante Tabora, right, on his way to the basket during the first quarter of their masters division game in the San Antonio caging last Saturday at the San Antonio court.